

# the taxpayer

25th Anniversary

## 25 Years Fighting for Taxpayers



Taxpayer.com



# From the President



Troy Lanigan

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## A quarter-century fighting for taxpayers

**W**hen then-federal director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) John Williamson went before the House of Commons Finance Committee to present recommendations in advance of the 2006 budget, a rookie MP on the committee was confused.

"I don't understand," he said "You're standing before this committee asking that the government spend less? Nobody does that!"

The exasperated MP went on to explain that his staff had tracked all the various spending requests brought before the committee which totalled, that year, an eye-watering \$600 billion. The entire federal budget in 2006 was \$222 billion.

I've shared that story countless times for the simple reason that it captures who we are and what we do better than any other.

It may seem strange that taxpayers are outnumbered and outgunned, but they are for the simple reason of concentrated benefits and dispersed costs. Beneficiaries of government largesse have far greater incentive to be organized and forceful than those who pay a couple of bucks a year for any given government expenditure.

“Thanks to hard work, know-how, relevance, commitment and above all, the support of many, the CTF is alive and well 25 years later.”

As the great 19th century French economist Frederic Bastiat put it: "Government is that great fictitious entity where everyone endeavours to live at the expense of everyone else."

This is what the founders of the CTF understood in 1990. It was time the "everyone else" had a voice against the state's ever expanding

claims on our livelihood and our freedom.

That taxpayers needed a voice was the easy part. The hard part was in convincing them that if we got organized—by shifting cynicism to engagement—we could make a difference.

But door by door, call by call, letter by letter and now, click by click, tens of thousands of Canadians took up the cause to create a national taxpayers advocacy group.

To be sure, good intentions alone are no guarantee of success: but thanks to hard work,

Then BC Director Troy Lanigan launches billboard campaign in November 1998.

know-how, relevance, commitment and above all, the support of many, the CTF is alive and well 25 years later.

Both taxes and the size of government are down slightly from when we started, but take no solace: as Margaret Thatcher once quipped "in economics, there are no final victories." Indeed, the pendulum is clearly swinging once again toward bigger more intrusive government. The importance and relevance of this organization remains; but it does so on a foundation laid over a quarter century.

So take pride in this commemorative anniversary edition of *The Taxpayer*. Take pride in the organization we have built without forced taxes, forced union dues or charitable status. Take pride in the values of personal responsibility, work and voluntary charity that we represent. Above all, take pride in fighting for freedom and the commitment to never be defeated by apathy. **t**



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## Thank you to our founders club:



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**Our Founders Club:** We can't say thank you enough to our supporters who make the CTF happen. But there is a special group who have supported the CTF since its inception 25 years ago.

## Looking back 25 years:



### 22 | 25th Anniversary Book: Fighting for Taxpayers

As part of our 25th anniversary, CTF President Troy Lanigan wrote a book looking back at the CTF's storied past.

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# 25 years of Letters to the Editor

Since the CTF started publishing *The Taxpayer* 25 years ago, we have received hundreds of letters-to-the-editor expressing people's frustration with government spending and taxes. We even had government whistleblowers writing exposing waste in their departments. These letters have covered issues from the GST to corporate welfare to politician pay. The following is a sampling of some of the letters we have received over the years.

March/April 1990

## Very first letter to the editor

I wish to commend your organization on the message you send to the public. Having reviewed information from you for some time, I find it alarming as to where your tax money is spent. Thank you, it is an eye opener.

Kemis Belsher  
Edmonton, AB

Winter 2011

## Native politician salaries

I would like to thank and congratulate your organization for the recent exposé of First Nation leaders and their absurdly high salaries. We as First Nation citizens often find ourselves hitting a brick wall when it comes to trying to uncover such information. The majority of First Nation peoples, namely the poor, do not support such abuse of government funding.

I became a supporter of your organization because I believe in what your organization advocates and hope that I can get advice on how to set up a citizens' advocacy group in my community.

Herbie Joseph  
Elsipogtog First Nation, NB

Jan/Feb 2000

## Why we started Generation Screwed

I am 25 years old, just bought a townhouse and have started to make some decent money. I am a Simon Fraser University graduate with a BA in economics. I never paid much attention because I never made enough to make a fuss.

But the more I see how much of my paycheck goes to taxes, I feel very discouraged. Something has to be done, not only to cut taxes but get our businesses to stay in Canada.

I get upset when we can't compete with the US or other countries for that matter. May people and businesses are going south for tax reasons. I love it here in Vancouver and plan to stay for the long haul.

I'm getting sick of listening to people complaining including myself. So I would like to get involved in some way even if it is to sign a petition.

At least I know I will have done what I can to make Canada a better place to live.

Jay Guzman  
Vancouver, BC

Sept/Oct 1999

## What you don't know will cost you

*Editor's note: the following letter was received from a former Industry Canada employee. At his request, we have not published his name.*

Initially I had some reservations about writing to an organization that regards government support to industry as corporate welfare. However, I am beginning to realize that subsidizing a small number of corporations is clearly at the expense of many other firms across Canada and in turn their employees. Having served with Industry Canada, I am convinced that picking winners is often a matter of chance. Moreover, decisions can be strongly biased when corporations benefit from political connections or when ministers seize the opportunity to further personal or party interests at public expense.

Hopefully, taxpayers will realize that they are being duped, before

many more sizable gifts are provided to large, wealthy and powerful corporations. I would prefer that you don't mention my name, but believe your members should know just what lies behind the news stories.

Name withheld

Winter 2010

## NDP supporter supports CTF

I am a long-time supporter of the NDP, and continue to be. However, I am donating to the CTF because you have managed to be both non-partisan and relevant. You have successfully distanced yourself from any party affiliation, thus keeping your eye 'on the prize.'

Well done! I especially appreciate the current work on Parliamentary spending, the salaries of some of the small Aboriginal band council members and the dumb "fake lake" thing. Hell ... all of the stuff you've been e-mailing lately has been great! Keep it up.

Jon Oxley  
Lethbridge, AB

Vol 8, No 2, 1996

## Balance Budget Amendment

I appreciate very much *The Taxpayer*. At times I have to read it in small doses, as it make me so angry and disgusted with the federal government that it makes for new ulcers. Your proposed Taxpayer Protection Amendment is especially impressive. However, I believe the federal budge should be balanced now, not in three to four years. There are thousands of ways to reduce spending; all it would take is



a deaf ear to special interest groups and a lot of gumption. As a taxpayer, I see red over some of the ridiculous and idiotic ways our money is wasted.

R. J. Whelpton  
Rose Prairie, BC

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Nov/Dec 2000

## A taxpayer's view of the world

Everytime I read your publication, I appreciate how you reveal a different perspective from that of the current ruling party. However, I sink deeper into a depression when I do read your articles.

First I am a-political, I am not loyal to any one party or leader. However, I am loyal to individuals who display good judgement and respect for those they lead and govern.

With the dysfunctional mindset attached to the current federal government's spending habits, I can see no end to our problems.

The most depressing part is that a large percentage of Canadians seem to support this type of spending and corruption. Perhaps I have a simplistic view of life, but I believe that the people are the government and the ruling political party is a caretaker we appoint. The sole responsibility is to look after our collective well being, not their political future and that of their allies and friends. Who is serving who?

Gary Lester

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Nov/Dec 2005

## Getting the facts right

Your September/October *You Asked For It* debunks the widely circulated e-mail hoax claiming refugees earn more than pensioners in Canada. It demonstrates how careful we have to be expressing and circulating an opinion without having all the facts.

Thank goodness that we have

the Canadian Taxpayers Federation to do the screening process for us and separate facts from fiction! The CTF deserves support.

Gerry Van Dongen  
Brantford, ON

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Sept/Oct 1991

## Dumbfounded by handouts

I am sitting here with *The Taxpayer* open looking at this long list of giveaways and wondering why my taxes are so high, and why this country is so broke.

A quick scan of this list I see 10 places where there have been two grants given and four places where three grants have been handed out to the same companies and some of them are quite sizeable.

I realize this is taxpayers' money being spent and it hurts.

I appreciate what the Taxpayers Federation is doing. Keep up the good work.

Yours for a better Canada

G.R.

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Jan/Feb 2002

## Taxation debate on CBC Newsworld

I enjoyed watching the debate over taxation between Walter Robison and Liberal MP John McCallum on CBC Newsworld. Walter made some great points.

## Letters to the editor

Letters may be edited for length, content and clarity.

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Unfortunately, Mr. McCallum does not recognize the devastating effect taxes have on the economy.

As a result of this debate I will be joining the Federation which I have been watching on the web for some time. The only way to address wasteful spending is through smaller government.

Walter did an outstanding job and is to be congratulated on the work the Federation does, which, in spite of Mr. McCallum's comments, remains non partisan.

Darryl Tedford, BC

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May/June 2006

## CTF gets my Ralphbucks

Sending tax dollars back to taxpayers in a manner that skims over \$10 million in administration costs is just plain stupid. If you want to give money back to taxpayers, then don't take it from them in the first place. I am forwarding my Resource Rebate cheque to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation as you continue to be the only voice of reason on government spending issues.

L. Champagne  
Calgary, AB

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Sept/Oct 2002

## Tax Me, I'm Canadian

I have just ordered two more "Tax Me I'm Canadian" caps. I have been wearing one for about a year now. My wife says it best: "I have never seen anyone wear a piece of clothing that draws as many comments as that hat." People stop me anywhere in the world to comment on it. They ask me where to get one and I tell them "the Canadian Taxpayers Federation."

Keep up the great work keeping governments' feet to the fire.

Bob Drummond  
West Vancouver, BC



# 25 years of WasteWatch



I have been writing WasteWatch, in its various forms, for nearly 24 years. When it came to choosing stories for WasteWatch, I was never attracted to big dollar amounts, but rather it had to be big on my “silly” scale. One of my favourites is the so called arts grant involving floating a giant banana over the Mexican/US border. The following is a selection of a few of our favorites over the years. — Dean Smith

**This past summer**  
[2012] the Canadian Forces Leader-

ship and Recruit School based in Saint-Jean Garrison, Quebec, put up an interesting job posting.

The school was looking for an applicant to: “Plan and prepare coffee orders, efficiently control the inventory and services of the coffee machines, gather all the money collected from coffee machines and accordingly make the deposits to the bank.”

The individual will also ensure the commanding officer’s coffee is set up every Friday morning.

So what would the Defence department be willing to pay for such an important and highly skilled position?

They were looking for an individual with the rank of corporal or higher, but in a show of fiscal restraint they would only pay a corporal’s wage which ranges between \$53,712 and \$68,784 a year.

Source: the *National Post*

**July/Aug 2007**

## Public sector union shows its colours

were met by the chief of the fire department who had just arrived on the scene.

Firefighters had not yet arrived so the chief asked the two if they had water in their truck. When they said yes he asked if the water could be used to fight the fire.

The two immediately agreed and turned their hoses on the fire and brought it down.

Because of their quick action the two

**Fall 2012**

## Coffee corporal?

city workers saved thousands of dollars in damage. The two not only received a commendation from the city, but also received an award from the RCMP.

However, when the firefighters’ union heard about the incident it immediately issued a grievance against the city fire chief. The union contended the city had violated the non-contracting out provision in the union’s collective agreement.

When people caught wind of the union’s absurd grievance, the resulting publicity led to the union withdrawing its complaint.

Source: *CBC News*

**Summer 2012**

## This picture not so clear

A Freedom of Information request by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation discovered that TransLink — a BC government agency providing transit for BC’s Lower Mainland — spent \$523,444 in 2009 for 13 TV screens. This works out to over \$40,000 for each screen.

The screens were set up at five SkyTrain stations and were intended to provide emergency information for travellers. However, when the CTF visited the stations to find out how the TV screens were doing, we found only four were actually working and at one location, the TVs had been removed altogether.

Source: the *Canadian Taxpayers Federation*

**Sept/Oct 2006**

## Pettigrew’s “personal security adviser”

When Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew took trips to Europe and South America in 2001 and 2002, he decided to bring along his chauffeur, Bruno Labonte.

In Ottawa, Labonte drives Pettigrew around town and takes him on trips to Montreal.

The decision to include Labonte on these trips, which included stop-offs in Lima, Paris, Brussels and Madrid, cost taxpayers in excess of \$10,000. Labonte’s expenses for the nine day European trip

International Space Station: NASA/Flickr



Space station menu flops

in 2001 included \$5,602.38 for his first class air fair and \$2,641.98 for food and hotel. The South American trip which included a stop over in Mexico cost taxpayers \$1,771.91 for food and hotel. No breakdown was provided on the airfare.

The only good news about this sad affair is that Pettigrew didn't have his limousine shipped to these locations so Labonte could drive him around. In fact, Labonte did no driving at all, as transportation on these overseas excursions is provided by either local officials or employees at Canadian embassies.

Initially Labonte's inclusion on the trips was justified by stating Labonte was Pettigrew's "personal security adviser." However, security services on international trips are provided by either the RCMP or the host country.

Source: *The Globe and Mail*

**Jan/Feb 2004**

## **Connections pay**

So why did the Department of Transport spend \$5.3 million in 2001 to upgrade a small airport in Quebec that is closed six months of the year and handles less than 1,500 flights annually?

Meanwhile, much larger airports — such as the one in Red Deer, Alberta that handles 40,000 flights each year — received nothing.

Apparently, it has everything to do with connections — and we're not talking flight connections.

The airport in question is the Charlevoix airport, which is located 100 kms east of Quebec City. But the key connection may be its proximity to the recently renovated resort/estate of the billionaire Desmarais family located just minutes away. In fact, the renovations to the airport took place shortly after Paul Desmarais — who heads Power Corp one of the country's largest conglomerates — undertook a \$40 million expansion of the property.

The estate, which is 75 km in size, includes an 18 hole golf course and 30 lakes.

The Desmarais family routinely uses the small Charlevoix airport to fly in family, friends and business associates on the company's Challenger Jet. Even Jean Chretien used the airport as late as last August [2003] for a

party held at the estate for international politicians.

Though local businesses coughed up money to support renovations at the Red Deer airport, the Desmarais family and Power Corp contributed nothing to the renovations at Charlevoix airport.

Source: the *National Post*

**Sept/Oct 2005**

## **The goose that laid the golden fine**

If Environment Canada — the same guys that brought you Kyoto — get their way, Peter Francis of Leduc, Alberta will spend the next six months in jail and face a \$300,000 fine for — brace yourself — moving geese.

Apparently, there is a law at the environment department that forbids the moving of migratory birds without a permit.

In fact, Francis' crime was so horrendous that Environment Canada issued a news release condemning the affair. It stated that "the best interests of the geese and all concerned citizens were not taken into consideration."

So how did Francis end up in this pickle? Well, he is the maintenance foreman at the Leduc Golf and Country Club and the geese were doing what geese do best, getting in the way and pooping all over the course. For the sake of all concerned, including the geese who could potentially get hit by golf balls, Francis decided to move the 40 or so geese to a lake south of town.

Despite the disruption, most are convinced the geese should still be able to find their way to the southern USA and Northern Mexico during their fall migration.

Source: the *National Post* / Environment Canada

**July/Aug 2005**

## **Fishing for sponsorship money**

Fishing for money out of the sponsorship program set up to stop Quebec from leaving Canada was akin to shooting fish in a barrel. Take the case of Luc Lemay, who's advertising firm received \$13.7 million to produce and air radio ads in rural Quebec between 1998 and 2002.

The 30-second radio ads featured timely advice on issues of vital importance to national unity. In one ad, Quebecers were warned that fishing line is severely weakened when sprayed with insect repellent and ended with, "The Government of Canada wishes you a happy fishing time."

Another ad talked about food. It told Quebecers that onions have a diuretic ef-



**Burning up tax dollars with grand pianos**



# 25 years of WasteWatch

fect and that onions and garlic can calm you. The ad ends: "The Government of Canada urges you to eat well."

In another ad, an insurance broker told Quebecers that most insurance policies will pay living expenses if individuals are forced to move out of their home because of fire. The ad ends: "The Government of Canada wishes you a good day."

Source: the *National Post* / *Globe and Mail*

Jan/Feb 2004

## Will the real yo-yos please stand up

The city of Edmonton coughed up \$50,000 so 30 American actors could run around Washington, D.C. handing out yo-yos. No, we are not making this up.

They gave away 10,000 yo-yos as a way of promoting Edmonton in the US capital. On one side was printed the website for Edmonton's Economic Development Office and on the other, the words Edmonton Festival City were proudly emblazoned. Of course, if that was not enough to imprint the name Edmonton in the minds of Washingtonians, the American actors wore Edmonton caps and t-shirts.

It was all part of a week long celebration of Alberta in the American capital that started June 30<sup>th</sup>. It coincided with an exhibition of Alberta at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Source: the *Edmonton Sun*

Jan/Feb 2007

## Who's the banana republic now?

Cesar Saez has a dream. He dreams of a 1,000-foot-inflatable long banana flying over the state of Texas. Saez plans to make a banana-shaped, helium-filled, synthetic-paper airship that will fly 20 to 30 kilometres above the state of Texas. The balloon should be up there about a month before it crashes to earth.

Saez expects the project will cost about \$1 million and hopes to have it launched in August 2008.

When Saez was asked why he was doing it. His answer was simply "Why not a banana over Texas?"

However, Saez may have a more sin-

ister message behind the giant banana. You see he plans to build and launch it from Mexico and have it drift over the border into Texas. It will be a statement on the current tension between Mexico and the US over the flow of illegal migrants. Since the banana will be over 25,000 metres in the sky it should be beyond the jurisdiction of the US government. However, just in case, lawyers are preparing legal briefs to fight any US protest.

So what has all this to do with Canada? Well, Saez is an "artist." And although born in Argentina, he currently lives in Montreal. Yes, he is a Canadian artist. And every taxpayer in Canada knows what that means.

The federal government's Canada Council kicked in \$15,000 for the project and the Quebec government's Council for Arts and Letters (CAL) \$49,800.

CAL spokesman, Beatrice Pepper, said the project announcement was a "big day" for Quebecers and added the big yellow banana over Texas will benefit Quebec culture.

Source: CTV.ca

Summer 2011

## Fishing license needed to plant corn

Martin Reid, a corn farmer near Sabrevois, Quebec was forced to buy a fishing permit in order to plant corn.

As a result of the unusual amount of rain this year, much of Reid's land was covered in water.

This resulted in a number of carp being landlocked on his flooded farmland. Because of this, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

demanding Reid buy a fishing licence to remove the fish.

He was also required to capture them live (both sexes of fish are specifically mentioned), transport them in containers of water back to the river. If any carp died in transport he was required to bury the carp, (there was no mention of the minimum he would have to spend on funeral arrangements).

Only once all the fish were captured would fisheries bureaucrats allow him to remove the water from his land.

In 1993, Reid experienced similar flooding. That year he decided to just pump the water off his land, killing the



Taking Defence spending to the next level

carp in the process. When Fisheries and Oceans Canada found out about this they fined Reid \$1,000 and warned him if he did it again he could be fined as much as \$100,000. Of course, there are no penalties or requirements if Reid simply left the water to dry up and evaporate naturally – subjecting the fish to a slow and prolonged death.

Source: CNews.com

## Summer 2011

### Where's the gold?

Over the past couple issues of *The Taxpayer* we've been reporting on the Royal Canadian Mint's search for some 17,500 ounces of missing gold.

Initially it was feared there was a heist, making it one of the largest robberies in Canadian history. However, we now learn the culprit was none other than — wait for it — government mismanagement!

A report released just before Christmas [2010] revealed a series of miscalculations and blunders dating back to 2005. Most of the missing gold was miscounted and had never left the mint, but 3,500 ounces was mistakenly sold off in slag to US re-refiners and can not be recovered — worth around \$4 million on today's market.

Taxpayers can breathe a sigh of relief though as mint spokesperson Christine Aquino says: "At the end of the day, we've learned a lot of lessons."

Minister responsible Rob Merrifield expressed disappointment and announced that mint executives would not receive any discretionary bonuses for 2008.

The December report is the final chapter in a 14-month search stemming from a failed reconciliation at the mint in October 2008.

Source: the *Ottawa Citizen*

## Winter 2015

### \$832,000 didn't get iced

ument to waste.

Why?

Because the Alberta government decided to scrap the \$1.2-million skat-

The \$832,000 Zamboni shed built by the Alberta government for a skating rink, now sits as a mon-

Nothing describes taxpayer funded art like dead rabbits

ing rink it was building on the site of the \$375-million refurbishment of the historic Federal Building in Edmonton.

Fortunately, the government was also able to cancel the purchase of a \$120,000 Zamboni that would be housed in this garage.

The 128-square-metre luxurious garage designed to fit the architectural motif of the area will now be used as a garden shed.

It is also uncertain if the 21 change room lockers and washrooms in a "garden shed" will serve any useful purpose.

Source: *National Post*

## Winter 2012

### Escalator to nowhere

In what was described as a fiscal fiasco, the University of Quebec in Montreal spent nearly \$300 million on renovations of a downtown complex that included an old bus terminal. The university planned to convert the multi-storied building into a campus residence, teaching area and mall.

However, due to massive cost overruns and budget shortfalls, the project nearly bankrupt the University forcing the Quebec government to step in and buy the building.

With much fanfare, the building was opened to the public this past December — well, sort of.

The government only renovated the ground floor leaving the top eight floors unfinished.

One unique feature is a nine-step escalator that runs straight into a white wall. The cost for this escalator to nowhere was \$200,000.

Source: the

*Ottawa Sun*

## Winter 2014

### Another green scheme flops

In preparation for the 2010 Winter Olympics, BC Transit decided that purchasing 20 hydrogen-powered buses for Whistler would show the world how serious British Columbia was about going green.

The cost was \$89.5 million. BC Transit gloated that it would be the largest hydrogen fleet in the world.

The town of Whistler contributed \$16.8 million to the purchase, the federal government coughed up \$48 million and the B.C. government agreed to pay \$1.8 million annually to help run the buses. BC Transit also kicked in part of the operat-





# 25 years of WasteWatch

ing costs.

But the program was doomed from the start.

First, the hydrogen gas needed to be shipped in from Quebec every 10 days; the government originally thought it could be produced locally.

Second, the \$2.1 million per bus was four times the cost of a diesel bus.

Third, the buses required maintenance every 3,000 km compared to 5,000 km for regular buses. This worked out to \$1 per km per hydrogen bus compared to 64 cents for diesel. When the warranty runs out, the maintenance costs will more than double to \$2.28 per km.

Then there's the fact that hydrogen buses don't like cold weather, making them impossible to start at times. The cold also resulted in more maintenance issues and caused the mileage to drop significantly below what was promised in the specs. A BC Transit document stated fuel costs, due in part to the cold, tripled the costs of conventional buses.

Source: the *National Post*

## Winter 2015

### Police pension plan a Springhill disaster

ployed 30 people.

In 2013, an arbitrator awarded the town police force an 18.5% pay hike over four years. Because of other financial difficulties, it was an increase the town could not afford.

So Springhill council decided to approach the RCMP about running the police force instead. Then council was hit with a second whammy. In 2009, the Police Association of Nova Scotia introduced a provision requiring a town that contracted out its policing to another agency to pay the departing police force the same pensions as the RCMP receive.

So a 30-year veteran town police officer was now eligible for the same pension as one who worked for the RCMP for 30 years, even though he or she had never worked for the RCMP or paid

Pension costs for the Springhill police force were a major factor in the Nova Scotia town disbanding the town, home to 3,500 residents.

The Springhill council found itself in a fiscal quagmire caused in part by the town's police department, which em-

into its pension plan.

The town was faced with a \$2-million bill for these pensions, which would have required a massive property tax hike.

The only solution was to close down the town and give the police association its required one-year notice. The town could then re-form and use the RCMP without the pension penalty.

That is exactly what Springhill did.

Source: *Chronicle Herald*

A 1994 inquiry with the Foreign Affairs Department drew mention of a grand piano.

Alarm bells! We quickly did a follow up to learn that 74 grand pianos were located in Canadian embassies around the world from Dakar, Senegal to Damascus, Syria.

Often these pianos are little more than expensive decorations, ranging in value from \$10,000 to \$100,000 for a "concert grand."

The Canadian embassy in Washington, DC has five grands. One sits in the drawing room of the official residence and another in the drawing room of the minister's residence. The remaining three are in the chancery, including one on the sixth floor foyer, another in the hospitality suite and a concert grand in the auditorium.

Our embassies in Paris and London have three grands. This includes one "concert" grand in both locations.

## Vol 7, no 1, '95

### Now ain't that grand

## Winter 2009

### A royal mistake

The Public Works Department of the federal government routinely sells unneeded items through its online auction service.

This past spring [2008] it decided to unload some items sitting around Rideau Hall — the Governor General's residence. But there were a couple of problems.

First the items sold were considered historic antiques and quite valuable, but since the bureaucrats never undertook due diligence, the items were sold for a "pittance." Then there was the little issue that the government didn't actually own some of the items auctioned. They were



Who needs a fishing license to plant corn?

wedding gifts to the Queen of England's grandparents and were on loan from Buckingham Palace.

When the mistake was discovered, bureaucrats were sheepishly required to buy the items back from the people who had purchased them. Of course, at this point the government was required to get an actual appraisal done on the items (something that should have been done before they were sold).

Three sterling silver flower baskets which had been presented to Queen Elizabeth II as wedding gifts and on loan from Buckingham Palace were sold for \$532. The government paid \$50,000 to purchase them back from a Quebec buyer.

A Montreal buyer earned \$31,781.96 on a small gold trimmed table mirror he purchased for \$218.04.

The bureaucrats, however, did get 'lucky' on a couple buy backs. A set of china teacups painted by artist Alice Hagen were appraised at \$25,000. The department had sold them to a PEI buyer for \$275 and repurchased the items for \$1,400.

In total, the government paid \$96,500 for items it sold for \$3,934.37.

Source: the *Ottawa Sun*

## Summer 2010

### In a galaxy, far far away

It was discovered via an access to information request by Canadian Press that taxpayers spent \$400,000 in a failed bid to produce a menu for space travel. The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) wanted to develop a uniquely Canadian menu for its astronauts, with the grandiose idea it would eventually replace the time-proven American fare used by NASA.

So in 2006, the Space Agency tendered a contract to develop a menu. The Space Agency coughed up \$65,000 and Agriculture Canada also \$350,000.

The space fare had to be uniquely Canadian and some of the proposed menu items included Bison meat loaf and maple cookies.

But there were problems. The mushroom sauce wasn't thick enough and there were concerns it would come apart in space. There was also the issue of providing packaging that would ensure an extended shelf life.

By January 2008, those developing the space food menu were requesting more money. By the end of 2008, the program was wrapped up having failed to produce even a single days menu.

The only thing CSA had to show

for the nearly half-a-million dollars was a dozen packages of cookies called "canasnacks," which were shipped to NASA.

So did the Canadian astronauts starve? No. CSA simply bought commercially available items at the local food store.

Why weren't these used in the first place?

Well, according to one CSA representative there were concerns that despite what the packaging said, the items may not be originally Canadian.

Source: *ctv.ca* | *Canadian Press*

## Summer 2012

### Roll up the rim to lose?

In 1995, when the Newfoundland Health Sciences Centre (NHSC) purchased a Tim Hortons franchise to sell coffee and donuts in its hospital, they expected a profit of \$300,000 a year. The bureaucrats gloated the money made could pay for chemotherapy drugs for its cancer unit or even the salaries of nurses or support staff.

Well, after those initial heady days, the hospital has turned what many consider a no-lose franchise into a taxpayer sink hole. Last year, the coffee shop lost \$260,000. Instead of paying for jobs at the hospital it is now costing jobs. NHSC is part of the Eastern Health district which is laying off 550 workers over the next year in an effort to save \$43 million.

The only good news is that the loss is down from the franchise's record deficit of \$296,000 in 2008-09.

So how did bureaucrats manage to turn a sure-fire franchise into a money loser? Well, it started off when the decision was made to use health care workers as employees. Yes, coffee servers were paid \$28 an hour (complete with benefits) to pour coffee into a cup. In order to reduce costs, the hospital now plans to have the management company running the franchise also hire employees.

In Windsor, ON, the Windsor Regional Hospital (WRH) lost \$265,000 running its three Tim Hortons kiosks. Because of its union contract with CAW, WRH is forbidden to contract out services and is paying CAW union members \$26 an hour to pour coffee. The hospital is trying to renegotiate these salaries or cut back hours of services in order to reduce the costs.

Source: the *National Post*



Hydrogen Bus: Tinker Sailer Soldier Spy/Flickr

Shipping hydrogen from Quebec to BC to end emissions?



# 25 years of WasteWatch

After blowing the whistle on fraud in a program sponsored by the Manitoba government, bureaucrat Jack Dalglish was transferred to a position with the government's Information Technology Branch (ITB).

An experienced accountant, Dalglish said there was absolutely nothing for him to do in the new position, even though he wanted to work. He stayed with the job until his retirement four years later in 2009.

During the period, Dalglish says he worked at most ten days a year while earning between \$93,000 and \$94,000 annually.

So what did he do to pass the time? He read 156 books.

He actually kept track of the books which he released to the CTF and the press. The list included "In Cold Blood" (his favourite) and other famous titles such as "The Color Purple," "Of Mice and Men," "A Passage to India" and "The Old Man and the Sea."

So what led to this cushy job?

Ten years earlier, Dalglish was working with Manitoba's Department of Industry which at the time was providing tax credits for a labour sponsored investment fund called the Crocus Investment Fund. People investing in this fund received a tax credit.

Around 2000, Dalglish became alarmed about problems with the fund and sent a memo to his superiors stating the fund was in trouble and would go broke in about four years.

The government ignored his advice and continued promoting the fund. Four years later the fund went bankrupt costing investors tens of millions of dollars.

When the Manitoba auditor investigated the program, he spotted Dalglish's memo and included it in his report on the Crocus fund disaster.

Humiliated by the bankruptcy and revelations it was forewarned of the disaster, the Manitoba government did the only thing it could: it banished Dalglish to ITB.

Source: the *National Post*, Canadian Taxpayers Federation and Jack Dalglish

Winter 2013

## Don't shoot the messenger

The Manitoba Association of Native Fire Fighters was responsible for providing food to Aboriginal evacuees that were put up in Winnipeg hotels during Manitoba's 2011 flooding.

Documents uncovered by the *CBC*, show that in addition to providing three meals a day, the association authorized spending over \$1 million on evening snacks for the evacuees.

Between April and December 2012, Winnipeg's Mona Lisa Ristorante Italiano restaurant sent \$1,500 worth of snack food each night to each hotel housing evacuees. Reaching as much as \$60 per day per evacuee, the bill for snack foods was at times higher than the bill for supplying three meals a day. Combined, the costs for snacks and three meals a day reached \$111 per person.

According to sources, a number of non evacuees were also enjoying the snacks and reports from the hotel staff described the left-over snack food being thrown out each night as "ridiculous."

Source: *CBC*

Fall 2014

## Unions work hard to reduce work days

If recent negotiations are any indication, government unions are determined to reduce the number of days worked by federal employees.

And the unions are becoming very creative in their approach. The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) recently asked for days off on the death of an "aboriginal spirit friend." This is apparently a religious spirit or ghost that can take on human or animal form.

Under the current contract, employees can take off up to 10 days because of sick or deceased family members. PSAC's Educational and Library Science Group wants imaginary friends included in the eligibility list.

Other unions are demanding that newly hired employees receive four weeks of vacation instead of the three and for those employed for eight years to receive five weeks' paid vacation. After 25 years' employment, unions want eight weeks, up from the present six weeks.

Other demands include adding Jan. 2, Feb. 16 and May 1 to the list of statutory holidays.

The unions are also demanding taxpayers contribute one cent for every hour worked by government employees to a

Photo: AshtonPalflickr



Only governments could lose money on this franchise

union-administered “social justice fund.”

Source: CTF

**Nov/Dec 2003**

## The \$200 hotel

A story from the early 1980s may be one of the worst cases of waste in Canada’s corporate welfare history.

The Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) provided a \$315,000 loan guarantee to help construct a 22-room motel complete with a bar and restaurant in New Brunswick. DREE was the forerunner to Industry Canada’s regional corporate welfare programs.

By March 1982, the motel was several months behind on its loan payments. The trust company seized the motel and called in the federal loan guarantee.

In order to recoup some of its losses, DREE — the new motel owners — decided to sell the property at public auction. However, DREE officials — who didn’t bother to attend the auction — made the mistake of not putting a reserve bid on the property.

The motel that had been appraised at \$393,000 in 1977 and \$550,000 in 1978, was auctioned off for \$200 (that’s right — two hundred dollars). The next day, the winning bidder sold the motel for \$75,200. Within a month, this new owner had obtained a mortgage on the property for \$285,000. In 1983, an offer was made on the motel and adjacent land for \$625,000.

**Nov/Dec 2003**

## Hang this around your neck

The provincially funded Manitoba Arts Council awarded Aliza Amihude a grant for \$5,000 so she could publicly show her hand-made, organic

jewellery. The jewellery was put on display at the Manitoba Crafts Council Exhibition Gallery in Winnipeg.

The jewellery was created mainly from natural products including Aliza’s toe nails and pubic hair, dead insects and mouse droppings.

Aliza stated that she hoped her exhibit would not only put some ‘wow’ in peoples’ lives, but ‘open up their minds.’ If they opened their wallets, \$360 could make them the proud owners of a necklace shaped in the form of genitalia and made of Aliza’s pubic hair.

A cheque for \$550 would buy a choker necklace made of vinyl tubing stuffed with mouse droppings. The pendant—made from coyote fur — is

The provincially funded Manitoba Arts Council awarded Aliza Amihude a grant for \$5,000 so she could publicly show her hand-made, organic

Mint’s million dollar loonie. John Blehler/Flickr



in the shape of a mouse, complete with a silver tail to give it that look of authenticity.

Commenting on this crude abuse of tax dollars, Adrienne Batra, the CTF’s Manitoba director said, “When most people see mice droppings in their home they call an exterminator, but in Manitoba they call the Arts Council asking for a grant.”

In 1999, Canada Council under the auspices of the Department of Canadian Heritage gave \$15,000 to University of Manitoba professor Diana Thorneycroft so she could — in the name of art — hang 12 rabbit carcasses in some trees.

The rabbit corpses had some of Thorneycroft’s photographic relics hidden inside them. These relics were eventually revealed as maggots ate away the flesh. The exhibit is patterned after the utensils in the Roman Catholic Church which hold the Eucharist.

In addition, Thorneycroft had an indoor display which featured 23 shaved toy bunnies. The toys had real rabbit parts stuffed inside.

Eleven dead rabbits were purchased from a local store for \$10 and the other one was road kill which was donated. The toy rabbits probably ran about the same. The remaining \$14,700 was used to pay for Thorneycroft’s ‘creativity.’

Amazingly, Canada Council chose her exhibit — out of a group of 232 applicants. It makes one wonder what kind of proposals were rejected.

**Nov/Dec 1999**

## Wotten Wabbit

In 1995, the BC government contracted American Traffic Systems (ATS) to develop

a photo radar system for the province. Unfortunately \$400,000 of the \$15.2 million billed by ATS was earmarked for a “Verification Rules Reference Book.” The manual is a meagre 22 pages with such insightful analysis as a photo of pavement with the caption “this image demonstrates a camera aimed too low.” The next photo with a picture of blue sky wisely notes that this camera is “aimed too high.”

At a mere 2,637 words the manual cost BC taxpayers \$152 a word!

**Vol 10, no 3, '98**

## Picture this

Gold at the Royal Canadian Mint goes MIA



# & Who we are what we do



by Scott  
Hennig  
VP Communications

**U**nbeknownst to each other, one group in Saskatchewan, *The Association of Saskatchewan Taxpayers*, and one group in Alberta, *The Resolution One Association*, both registered themselves into existence within weeks of each other in May 1989.

In Saskatchewan, Kevin Avram left the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association to start up a taxpayers group in response to growing debts and deficits from the Grant Devine provincial government. Avram along with

Saskatoon businessman Norm Wallace and Regina businessman Norm Baker made up the Association's founding board.

In Alberta, Link Byfield, Bob Matheson, Richard McCallum, Bob Tennant and Jim Bentein formed the Resolution One Association. The Resolution One Association had one goal: get the federal government to pass a law requiring that every dollar of new revenue be matched with even greater spending cuts.

The two groups were soon brought together to fight the GST. They organized "Axe the Tax" rallies across western Canada, bringing out diverse speakers such as

Preston Manning, Roy Romanow (pictured below), Lynda Haverstock, Dick Johnston, Lloyd Axworthy and Deborah Grey.

Despite losing the battle on the GST and failing to convince the federal government to enact a spending-cut law, the founders of both the Association of Saskatchewan Taxpayers and the Resolution One Association knew that they needed to stop future taxes before they happened and that meant building a broader and stronger organization. On April 23, 1990, the two groups merged to create the "Canadian Federation of National and Provincial Taxpayers," which was shortened to the "Ca-



1990 Axe the Tax rally featuring  
L to R: Reform Party Leader  
Preston Manning, Association of  
Saskatchewan Taxpayers founder  
Kevin Avram, Saskatchewan NDP  
leader Roy Romanow, Canadian  
Federation of Independent Business  
spokesman Dale Botting and  
Resolution One founder Link Byfield

nadian Taxpayers Federation" a year later.

Some of our key victories and campaigns are chronicled in the

pages of this special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of *The Taxpayer*. However, for the full story pick up a copy of the recently released

book by CTF President Troy Lanigan – *Fighting for Taxpayers: Battles Fought & Battles Ahead* (see pages 22-27).

## Steering the Ship

The CTF is a non-profit, non-partisan, federally incorporated citizens' advocacy group dedicated to lower taxes, less waste and accountable government. Our board of directors is charged with the responsibility to ensure we adhere to all relevant legislation, and maintain the integrity of the organization's mission, conduct, strategic planning and finances.

All board directors are volunteers and do not receive any compensation.

The board is not involved in the day-to-day operation of the organization. The full board meets three times a year to approve our strategic plan, annual communication goals and a budget.

Over the course of our history, dozens of great Canadians have served on the board. Past chairs include Bob Matheson (1990-1995), Andy Crooks (1995-2007) and Michael Binnion (2007-2015). The current board consists of our chairman Adam Daifallah (Quebec) and directors John Mortimer (British Columbia), Karen Selick (Ontario), Ken Azzopardi (Saskatchewan), David Hunter (British Columbia) and Janet Annesley (Ontario).



**L to R:** Board Chair Adam Daifallah (Quebec), John Mortimer (British Columbia), Karen Selick (Ontario), Ken Azzopardi (Saskatchewan), David Hunter (British Columbia) and Janet Annesley (Ontario)

## Administrations & operations

In 2013-14, the CTF received more than 23,000 donations. It takes a dedicated team in our head office in Regina to process that number of donations, let alone answer supporter and public queries, pay bills, maintain our database and our website. If you've ever called our head office or emailed with our Regina staff you've probably talked with Vice President Operations, Shannon Morrison, Elizabeth, Holly, Markie or Gen.

If you've ever attended one of our events, Executive Vice President Melanie Harvie was likely there to greet you at the door. When she's not busy keeping us on budget, she's booking and organizing our events across the country.

And while not in the Regina office, our entire team is headed up by CTF President and CEO Troy Lanigan. Troy has been with the CTF for 23 of our 25 years and has been the President and CEO since 2009.



**L to R:** Melanie Harvie (Executive VP), Troy Lanigan (President and CEO) and Shannon Morrison (VP, Operations)



## Spreading the message

A talented team of spokespeople, researchers, interns and other communications staff are employed across the country. These representatives field hundreds of media interviews each month, hold press conferences and issue regular news releases, commentaries, action updates and social media posts to advocate on behalf of CTF supporters. They speak at functions, make presentations to citizen groups, testify at legislative and parliamentary committees, meet with decision makers and organize campaigns to mobilize citizens and affect change.

Members of the communications team contribute to and operate our websites, Taxpayer.com, Debt-Clock.ca and GenerationScrewed.ca. They also write, create and publish this magazine, *The Taxpayer*.



**L to R:** Aaron Gunn (Generation Screwed Executive Director), Christine Van Geyn (Ontario Director), Kevin Lacey (Atlantic Director), Scott Hennig (VP, Communications), Todd MacKay (Prairie Director), Aaron Wudrick (Federal Director), Dean Smith (Publications/Web); Jordan Bateman (BC Director), Paige MacPherson (Alberta Director), Jeff Bowes (Research Director)

## Building the CTF

While you might have seen a CTF spokesperson on TV, there's an even better chance you've been called by or met one of our dedicated field agents at your door.

The success of this organization is built on the willingness of Canadian taxpayers to voluntarily contribute financially. In addition to using tools such as direct mail letters, online donation drives and telephone appeals, the CTF has a committed group of individuals who meet with our supporters and ask for a donation each year.

But these field agents can't just be considered fundraisers as they are so much more than that. They are our eyes and ears on the ground – Walter Robinson used to refer to them as our “perpetual polling machine.” They are also the folks who get most of the petitions signed and encourage our supporters to engage with our mission, take action and stay informed.

Saskatchewan field manager Richard Lueke receiving his 25 year plaque (**L to R**): Former CTF board chair Andy Crooks, CTF President Troy Lanigan, Richard Lueke and Rod Cunningham, National field manager.





## Building Generation Screwed

Launched in 2013, the CTF's Generation Screwed initiative is informing and mobilizing young Canadians to save their economic future. While all Canadians struggle with government debts, deficits and unfunded health and pension liabilities, the next generation will really take it on the chin. It's been said that debt is nothing more than deferred taxes. And with the demographic shift that's occurring there's going to be less taxpayers in the future to shoulder the debt burden they will inherit. Generation Screwed is our answer to this. Through Generation Screwed, Canada's young people are building a better future and we're giving them the tools to get the job done.

What started with a goal to be on seven post-secondary campuses has ballooned into a national movement with representatives on 26 campuses – and a Quebec wing, Génération Trompée. Student organizers hand out pamphlets, organize speaking opportunities and social events, and the Quebec wing even organized a major conference in May 2015.



## Where are they now?



**Kevin Avram** (CEO; 1989-1993): Kevin went on to found the Prairie Policy Centre, was a president of the Canadian Association of Energy & Pipeline Landowner Association and is currently an independent strategic analyst in Lethbridge, AB.

Board. He most recently filled in as the interim executive director for the Regina Symphony Orchestra. Ken joined the board of directors for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation in 2012.



**Ken Azzopardi** (COO, CEO; 1996-2009) Since his retirement in 2009, Ken has split his time between golfing and volunteering for causes he is passionate about. Ken currently serves as the chair of the Saskatchewan's Western Development Museum and as a director on the Saskatchewan Arts



**Craig Dockstader** (Senior Operations Officer; 1990-1993) After leaving the CTF, Craig went on to work for the Centre for Prairie Agriculture and then joined Resolution One founder Link Byfield at the Citizens Centre for Freedom and Democracy. Craig is currently a legislative assistant to MP David Anderson in Ottawa.



# Fighting for Taxpayers in Ottawa



by Aaron Wudrick  
Federal Director

**T**he Canadian Taxpayers Federation has been a powerful voice in federal politics since its formation in 1990 – and that influence only grew with the opening of our Ottawa office and the hiring of Walter Robinson as our first federal director in 1997.

Here are some highlights of CTF policy wins at the federal level:

## The end of 'bracket creep'

Prior to 1986, income tax brackets were adjusted each year to match inflation. That year, the cash-strapped Brian Mulroney government de-indexed the brackets, resulting in the stealth tax hike phenomenon known as "bracket creep." Before the 1999 federal budget, we launched a campaign which, among oth-

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Federal Director Walter Robinson leans over 9,413 loonies at a 1999 press conference to illustrate the impact a decade of "bracket creep" taxation has had on the average Canadian wage earner. Bracket creep would be eliminated in the 2000 federal budget.

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er things, advocated for an end to bracket creep.

This culminated with federal director Walter Robinson holding a press conference in October 1999 showing off a pyramid of 9,413 loonies, which symbolized the impact of bracket creep on the average wage earner. This was supported by the launch of an online tax cut petition – still a relatively novel innovation in 1999 – that was dubbed the "Billion-Byte March." Our efforts paid off soon thereafter when finance minister Paul Martin rose in the House of Commons in February 2000 to announce that bracket creep was dead.



## Helping kill Kyoto

After prime minister Jean Chretien signed the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, the CTF commissioned Dr. Ross McKittrick of the University of Guelph to estimate what meeting Kyoto's targets would cost Canadian households. Far from being the painless endeavour Chretien had described, McKittrick concluded that households would take more than a 5% hit in real income through a combination of higher taxes, greater regulation and subsidies.

Throw in the fact that none of Canada's major trading partners, nor the biggest emitters in the developing world, were required to take action and you had a recipe for a disastrous and expensive "environmental" policy. It just didn't make sense for Canadians to be penalized when such countries as India and China wouldn't take similar measures. The CTF opposed Kyoto vigorously from the beginning and even ran radio ads attacking it, and we were among the most pleased when foreign affairs minister John Baird formally withdrew Canada from Kyoto in December 2011.

## MP pensions

Few things infuriate Canadians more than the notion that politicians are living high on the hog at taxpayer expense. Historically, a common symbol of such largesse has been overly generous pensions for re-



tired politicians. In 2011, following the election of a Conservative majority government, the CTF kicked into high gear a long-running campaign to demand that the pensions of retiring Members of Parliament be reformed.

After considerable research, spearheaded by then-national research director Derek Fildebrandt, it was determined that for every \$1 contributed by MPs taxpayers were kicking in more than \$23. Action updates were sent, a billboard campaign was launched, and a plane was even hired to circle Parliament Hill on the first day of the fall session, trailing the banner “Back to Work MPs: Fix your Pensions! Taxpayer.com.” To his credit, Prime Minister Stephen Harper supported changes which saw him personally forgo \$2.1 million from his own pension entitlement, and in October 2012 Parliament unanimously passed changes that will eventually see the ratio plummet to \$1.62 being contributed by taxpayers for every \$1 contributed by MPs once the entire current crop of MPs are dead.

## Shooting down the gun registry

In 1995 the Chretien Liberals introduced a universal firearms registry. Given the CTF’s roots and support base in rural Western Canada, it generated a massive reaction from our supporters. The gun registry turned out to be a gigantic waste: far from the original estimated cost of \$2 million, by 2004 the price tag had actually exceeded an estimated \$2 billion. The CTF gathered more than 14,000 signatures and presented them to auditor general Sheila Fraser, requesting that she au-

dit the program. She did, and delivered two damning audits highlighting the waste, misspending and attempts to deliberately misinform Parliament as to the program’s real costs. After several false starts, once the Conservatives secured a majority in 2011 the registry’s days were numbered, and Bill C-19 received royal assent on April 5, 2012, formally scrapping the registry.

## Corporate welfare

Exposing the largesse doled out by government to private business has long been one of the CTF’s go-to angles. And while success here has been more limited – corporate welfare and regional development programs continue to this day, with near-unanimous support across the political spectrum – we have had some victories nonetheless.

In late 1999, rumours were circulating that the federal government would offer public funds to Ca-



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On May 31, 1995, the CTF received its first above the fold coverage in a national newspaper, when the *Globe and Mail* ran a photo of 242 plastic pigs the CTF placed on Parliament Hill to protest being shut out of hearings on MP pension reform.

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nadian NHL teams in order to offset an increasingly unfavourable exchange rate with the US dollar. We prepared to move quickly, and sure enough in January 2000 industry minister John Manley announced a \$20-million package. Two days later, we began our campaign called the “Great Canadian Puck-Off” urging Canadians to mail the prime minister a hockey puck with a note saying that taxpayers should not bail out professional sports teams. The very next day, Manley cancelled the package.

## First Nations Financial Transparency Act

For many years, the CTF received complaints from people living on reserves, saying that they could not get any financial information from band leadership, or that such information was obviously incomplete. In some cases band members were threatened for even asking questions. Starting in December 2009 and spearheaded by prairie director Colin Craig, we called on the federal government to start posting each band’s annual financial statements online, bringing them in line with similar requirements for mu-



# First Nations Financial Transparency Act long overdue Empowering aboriginal Canadians

GUEST COLUMN  
PAULA SIMONS

EDMONTON  
Joe Preston, 41, is chief of the Jene-Thai First Nation. The band, in the far northwest corner of Alberta, 500 kilometres north of Grande Prairie, has a registered population of 2,911. According to audited statements filed with the federal department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, the chief of the Jene-Thai earns about \$88,000 a year, plus expenses. Band councillors get paid a base salary of \$9,000. Last year their expenses ranged from a low of \$5,500 to a high of \$25,000. That may not sound very exciting. But the simple fact that we know it is revolutionary.



near Rocky Mountain House, has a population of 1,270. Last year, it paid Chief Darren Whitford, a base salary of \$164,453, with another \$100,778 for travel and personal expense, for a total compensation package of \$265,231.

(Neither Alcock nor Whitford was available for comment last week.)

Those kinds of compensation packages make it seem almost unexceptional that the population of 8,000, paid its councillors a mere \$150,000 to \$150,000 a year, with \$8,000 for expenses. Yet it's important to note the huge disparities to point out that other bands such as the Pikani or Tallice paid salaries in the \$25,000 to \$70,000 range. In the end, though, all chiefs and councils are now responsible to their own band members. Over the next days and weeks as the statements are posted it will be easy enough to highlight the most egregious examples. But the time will come when the

After aboriginals approached the CTF about the lack of transparency on Chief and council salaries, the CTF pushed for the *First Nations Transparency Act*.

CTF, the FNFTA is the one of which it can claim to have the most direct ownership.

## Slaying the deficit ... and tackling the debt

The 1995 federal budget was a seminal moment for the CTF. As detailed in Troy Lanigan's book excerpt (pages 22-27), the CTF led the charge, organizing rallies across Canada to push the Chretien government to cut spending rather than raise taxes. That's precisely what happened in 1995 and the budget in Ottawa was balanced in 1997 for the first time in 27 years.

However, history often repeats itself, and when a worldwide economic downturn struck in late 2008, the Harper government plunged the country into a \$55-billion deficit. Our voice

In June 2006, then CTF Federal Director John Williamson (R) delivered a 28,000 name petition to former federal Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day (L), calling on Ottawa to shut down the long-gun registry and reallocate future gun registry spending to front line police work.

municipal, provincial and federal governments. The federal government responded by saying it didn't have the authority to do so; the CTF replied, "then change the law."

A 2010 private member's bill introduced by Conservative MP Kelly Block, which would have partly addressed the issue, died on the order paper when the spring 2011 election was triggered. Following the election an even better version of the bill – this time a government bill – was introduced that included all of CTF's recommended amendments. The bill became law in 2013 and financial reports for 2013-14 were posted online in the summer of 2014.

For the first time, on-reserve people had the same access to their leaders' financial statements as all other Canadians. Best of all, the law did precisely what it was intended to do: shed light on the few bad apples, such as Chief Ron Giesbrecht of BC's Kwikwetlem First Nation, who earned more than \$914,000 tax-free in 2013-14. One Kwikwetlem band councillor told the *National Post* that band residents never would have known about the massive payment without the FNFTA. Indeed, there is a case to be made that, of all federal legislation ever endorsed by the



was especially important when you consider that most critics complained that the government had not gone even further into deficit. The CTF was one of the few voices that opposed the so-called “stimulus” spending, and has been pressuring the government to get the federal books back into balance ever since.

We launched DebtClock.ca in 2009 to tally up the deficits in real

time on the Internet. And in 2011, we brought the old National Debt Clock out of retirement and embarked on a cross-country tour. The tour ended the day the writ was dropped for the 2011 election, and during that election we obtained a commitment from Harper to balance the budget in 2014. While the 2014 numbers have yet to be published, in April 2015 the government announced it

was indeed back into surplus, by the slimmest of margins. However, under the Conservatives’ watch, the federal debt has ballooned by \$157 billion, or one-third, in just six years. Keeping pressure on this and future governments to address this massive burden is the CTF’s top federal priority, and in an election year we will fight hard to make sure it is part of the national conversation. **t**

# Where are they now?



**Jason Kenney**  
(Alberta, Saskatchewan, federal and president; 1991-1996): Jason was

first elected in 1997 and currently is MP for Calgary Southeast. Jason has served in a variety of ministerial roles since the Conservative Party took power in 2006, including his current portfolio, national defence and multiculturalism.



**Walter Robinson**  
(federal; 1997-2003): In his post-CTF career, Wal-

ter has twice been a vice-president of government affairs for various associations and a chief of staff to the mayor of Ottawa. At present, Walter is the senior director, government and stakeholder relations, at Purdue Pharma Canada.



**Bruce Winchester**  
(National research director; 1999-2005): After leaving

the CTF Bruce became the director of research for the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies. From there he served in various senior policy roles in the federal government. Bruce is currently

a principal of WinStrategies.



**John Williamson**  
(Ontario, federal; 2002-2008):

After leaving the CTF John earned his master’s degree in economic history at the London School of Economics. He then returned to Canada as director of communications for Prime Minister Harper. John was elected in 2011 and is currently MP for the riding of New Brunswick Southwest.



**Tanis Fiss**  
(CAPC; 2002-2006)

Since her time at the CTF, Tanis has served as a consultant, a corporate development manager, and external and internal communications manager at several oil and gas firms, including her current position at Pembina Pipeline Corporation.



**Adam Taylor** (Ontario assistant, national research director; 2004-2008): After

working as a policy advisor to John Baird, Adam went into the prime minister’s office, serving in various

roles. He then became director of communications to Ed Fast, minister of international trade. Adam is currently a director at Ensignt Canada, a public affairs firm.



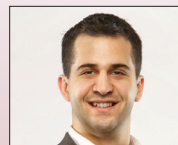
**Kevin Gaudet**  
(Ontario, federal; 2007-2011): Kevin has been a

commentator and strategist in his post-CTF years and is currently a principal at BrightPoint Strategy.



**Gregory Thomas** (British Columbia, federal; 2010-2014): Since stepping down as

federal director he has been doing contract research and writing work for the CTF and most recently helped out with the campaign against the proposed new TransLink tax in greater Vancouver.



**Nick Bergamini** (research director; 2012-2014): Nick left to take a job

as press secretary to federal cabinet minister Julian Fantino. Nick is currently the press secretary to Finance Minister Joe Oliver.



# 25th Anniversary Book: *Fighting for Taxpayers*

CTF President Troy Lanigan authored a new book – *Fighting for Taxpayers: Battles Fought and Battles Ahead*. Released in May 2015, the book chronicles the first 25 years of the CTF as well as five major challenges over the next 25 years. The following is an excerpt from Chapter two.

## Canada's Fiscal U-Turn



by Troy  
Lanigan  
President & CEO

**I**t was a cold winter morning in Edmonton and CTF President Jason Kenney rushed back

to the office from a morning interview with one of the national television networks. It was the lead-up to the 1995 federal budget. Gone were the days of whether budgets should be balanced and arrived were the days of how budgets should be balanced. Jason was up early many mornings to do media interviews in the eastern time zone.

That particular morning Lois Wilke took a call and forwarded it to Jason's phone. "Hello Jason, Paul Martin calling." Jason quickly assumed it was Ned Ismail, who worked out of our Regina office and had a penchant for being a bit of a prankster. "Ned, I haven't got time for this," said Jason, and promptly slammed down the phone.

Almost immediately the phone rang again, with the caller again asking to speak to Jason. "Ned, I will forward you, but Jason was up early this morning and he's busy," Lois cautioned.

"What is it Ned?" Jason

snapped.

"Jason, it really is Paul Martin, please don't hang up."

Long pause.

"Mr. Minister?" Jason queried a bit sheepishly. Martin continued, "I just saw you on TV this morning young fellow. You're pretty good on there. So tell me, what would you do if you were me?"

Long pause.

"Well Mr. Minister, for starters I wouldn't raise taxes ..." And their 20-minute conversation ended with an invitation to meet the finance minister in person.

By the summer of 1994 the CTF's much-delayed debt clock was out of the wrapper and on the road. Twelve feet long, eight-and-a-half feet high with changeable faceplates for the federal and each provincial government; the clock displayed the per-second increase in borrowing along with the debt for the average family of four. The thing was a beast. It weighed 600 pounds and



required a tow truck to lift it onto its stand wherever it went. But it packed a punch. Everywhere it went it made the debt more tangible to people and earned the local media coverage we had hoped for.

In the fall of 1994, the House of Commons finance committee along with Finance Minister Paul Martin were crisscrossing the country conducting pre-budget consultations. It was the lead-up to Martin's second budget as finance minister, his first effort deemed "timid and largely accepting of the

status quo ... [although it] did include a pledge to 'review' every government agency and program over the course of 1994."

Whenever possible, we set up the debt clock in front of a location where budget consultations would be taking place, "which really irritated the organizations that wanted endless increases in spending," Kenney noted with a wry smile.

Throughout this process all sorts of tax trial balloons kept popping up: higher gas taxes, lottery taxes, business taxes, new taxes on utility consumers, taxes on RRSPs, pension plans, health and dental benefits along with wealth and inheritance taxes. But the biggest trial balloon of all was a 1.25% "deficit reduction surtax" on all personal and business income. The Commons finance committee even had the nerve to suggest it would be "temporary."

By December of 1994 the heat was really turned up by a bump in interest rates, putting upward pressure on government borrowing costs. Paul Martin was suggesting he'd rather use "tax action" than miss deficit targets while Revenue Minister David Anderson added, "the problem with budget cuts is that you don't get a result immediately."

On January 12, 1995, *The Wall Street Journal* printed a lead editorial under the headline "Bankrupt Canada?" that stated "Canada ... has now become an honorary member of the Third World in the unmanageability of its debt problem." That same editorial went on to praise the NDP government of Saskatchewan and the PC government of Alber-

**Canadians from coast to coast to coast in the mid-1990s rose to the challenge posed by a balance sheet that was strangled ... the Canadian Taxpayers Federation play[ed] a major role in our success in this area. And anybody who knew the facts could not deny that.**

Rt. Hon. Paul Martin,  
May 2014

**Troy's book can be purchased for:**

**\$15**

(including taxes and shipping)

**Online at  
FightingForTaxpayers.ca.**

**It can also be found at your  
local bookstore.**

ta for showing leadership by cutting costs to get their budgets in balance. The editorial concluded, "Before Canada 'hits the wall' it must put on the brakes and take its government in a new direction"

In the 10 years between 1983 and 1993, federal government revenues had doubled from \$61 billion to \$121 billion, and yet, during that same time, the deficit was higher than it had ever been. Taxpayers, still reeling from the GST debate, were ready to have the proverbial fork stuck in them—they were done.

The final straw came on CTV's Canada AM in early January, when



## 1995 No More Taxes Rally in Pickering, Ontario



Toronto Liberal MP Dennis Mills famously said that if the government raised personal income taxes in February's budget, Canadians will "complain for a few days, then they'll roll over."

As Jason reflected: "This was our moment. This is what the CTF was created for. We were going to prevent this from happening."

Our plan was ambitious: We would hold a series of 17 "No More Taxes" rallies across the country and launch a major petition that would be delivered before February's budget. We even planned to

hold events in Quebec and Atlantic Canada where we had virtually no contacts on the ground. We adopted the slogan, "No More Taxes: Not on people. Not on jobs. Not on businesses." and would run a series of advertisements to promote the effort.

We had no budget for any of this. Paul Pagnuelo started contacting the best organized of the Ontario Taxpayer Coalition groups to identify which could support putting on a rally. The plan was to seed events in the West and trust that momentum and local support

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**"In its first quarter century, the CTF has frequently been more effective than opposition politicians at holding governments to account."**

- Lorne Gunter  
*Sun Media*

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would start covering the costs by the time we arrived in Ontario.

We had no idea what to expect. We started booking rooms big enough to make an impression, but small enough that media — we hoped — wouldn't be panning shots of empty seats.

The first rally took place the evening of February 1, 1995, at the Capri Hotel on Harvey Avenue in Kelowna, British Columbia. That event was co-organized by the CTF and retired local businessman John Patrick, who had started his own "Tax Revolt 95" campaign based in the Okanagan. From where I was sitting in the restaurant that night I could see the hotel door being held open by one person and then the next in what seemed an endless stream. I wasn't halfway through dinner before I was up searching for the catering manager, nervously assessing our room setup for 300 people. Fortunately, no one else was in the hotel that night and we were able to open walls to accommodate a much larger crowd.

Standing there, calling to order a standing-room-only crowd of more



than 800 packed with media, will always be my most cherished moment with the CTF. The room was electric. That night a young woman broke down in tears at the microphone describing the frustration of maintaining a household budget. The footage was played on newscasts across the country. The “No More Taxes” campaign had begun.

The next night we were at the Seniors Community Centre in Kamloops, where fire officials had to clear the stairwell before the event began. Many were turned away. Earlier in the day we decided to move the following day’s rally in Vancouver from the Hotel Georgia across the street to the larger Robson Conference Centre.

The first rally Jason Kenney attended was in Vancouver. Held over the lunch hour, more than 1,200 were in attendance. I remember Jason being blown away in Vancouver. He didn’t miss another rally after that, and they only got larger as they made their way east.

By the time we got to Ontario we didn’t know what to expect. But we knew we had a tireless core of volunteers on the ground

led by Paul Pagnuelo, Tom Charette and *Toronto Sun* Money Editor Linda Leatherdale, who promoted the petition and rallies with religious zeal.

Fortunately, Linda had already built a base of opposition to tax increases under the Bob Rae government and his finance minister “Pink Floyd” Laughren. She collected tens of thousands of “Stop the Tax Madness” petitions and led protests in front of Queen’s Park. For the rallies, she helpfully piggy-backed facility rental with RRSP seminars she held early each year. One was in Toronto where, Jason recalls, “we had a huge ballroom [at the Sheraton Centre], people were backed up outside the room, down the hall, up the stairs, into the lobby. It was bedlam.”

But nothing I heard at the time stood out as much as the story of Janice and Phil Frampton of Pickering, Ontario. In 1995 Janice was a flight attendant for Canadian Airlines and her husband worked in computer sales. They had four

**“Lanigan takes us behind the scenes of one of the most creative and effective public advocacy organizations in Canada today.”**

**- Barbara Yaffe,  
*Vancouver Sun***

young girls. Inspired by Ontario Taxpayer Coalition founders, George Lansens and Frank Sheehan, Janice founded a local ratepayers group “TAXCOPA”—Taxpayers Coalition of Pickering and Ajax—in the early 1990s. By the time tax ral-

**“Never has any organization brought so much fun to the deadly serious – and never ending – business of keeping government honest.”**

**- Peter Foster, author and columnist**





## CTF presented Paul Martin with a special “Stop the Clock Award”



lies were sweeping toward Ontario in early 1995, Janice vowed to make one happen in Pickering.

Unlike the rallies out west where the CTF could utilize staff resources, the efforts in Ontario relied entirely on volunteers. Janice and Phil extended the limits on their credit cards to come up with \$20,000 in order to rent a hall, AV equipment, chairs, risers, the whole shebang. When I interviewed Janice for this book and asked what she and Phil were thinking at the time, she simply said “we were following our passion.” And what a passion it was.

Despite horrific weather on February 15, 1995, more than 5,000 people shuffled into the Metro East Trade Centre on the corner of Highway 2 and Brock Road. The rally that night, like rallies before it, was hosted by local folks. They featured a variety of speakers and also allowed for open microphones from the floor. In Pickering speakers included Linda Leatherdale, Diane

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**“Canada needs a new  
tax revolt . . . this  
book proves that it  
can be done.”**

**- Terence Corcoran,  
Financial Post**

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Francis, Paul Pagnuelo, Jason Kenney and Reform Leader Preston Manning along with local elected representatives MP Dan McTeague (Liberal), MPP Jim Wiseman (NDP) and Mayor Wayne Arthurs.

It would be the largest anti-tax hike rally in Canada that year.

“This was a man bites dog story

... it sent a shock through the system,” Jason recalls, “I subsequently found out that a lot of the people in the government at the time thought this was all funded by different political parties or big corporations, and of course that wasn’t true.”

I’m sure Janice and Phil wished all the expenses could have been covered by some big corporation. They did, however, recover much of their investment by passing around the proverbial KFC bucket that night—a staple of the 20 rallies that took place across the country—along with a contribution of \$3,500 from the CTF. Phil says they were out a couple of thousand dollars in the end but adds, “it was an amazing thing to be part of” and quickly launches into tales of how their four girls helped in the effort.

The campaign delivered on another promise: delivering just shy of a quarter-million signatures on a petition not to raise taxes before the 1995 budget was delivered.

*Vancouver Sun* columnist Bar-

bara Yaffe summarized:

Ordinary people turned up in February at anti-tax rallies from [Vancouver Island to Atlantic Canada]. They swore and shed tears in gyms and town halls. *They organized, not in reaction but in pre-action.* And by the time they'd drawn their lines in the snowy landscape of a Canadian winter, Parliament Hill was encircled, feeling the full force of people power.

## The Historic 1995 federal budget

In his budget speech February 27, 1995 Paul Martin said: "The debt and deficit are not inventions of ideology. They are facts of arithmetic. The quicksand of compound interest is real. The last thing Canadians need is another lecture of the dangers of the deficit. The only thing Canadians want is clear action."

And with that, program spending was decreased by \$4.3 billion

in 1995-96 and \$6.1 billion in 1996-97; over two years the government planned to trim 8.8%—much of it coming through program review. But the actual reductions in program spending ended up being even larger, nearly 10% in two years. This included eliminating some 45,000 employees, a 14% decline in federal government employment.


The budget wasn't absent tax increases. There were tax increases on investments and a "temporary" deficit reduction surtax on gasoline. Nevertheless, despite all the trial balloons floated before we started our campaign, overall spending reduction was more than four-and-a-half times greater than revenue increases.

*The Wall Street Journal* followed up on its February editorial by writing on March 1, 1995: "The grass-roots campaign ... had an impact. Mr. Martin was able to sell deeper spending cuts to his cabinet colleagues and steer them from raising tax rates on personal income."

Of course it wasn't just the CTF. The Reform Party, its leader Pres-

ton Manning and its finance critics Herb Grubel and Monte Solberg, blasted away at the government in the House of Commons and on the hustings. The think tank community and many like-minded media commentators provided the intellectual ammunition and fact-based research to back our more populist appeal.

Fraser Institute Executive Vice President Jason Clemens told me in a 2014 interview, "The totality of the 1995 budget makes [it] the most important budget certainly of our generation, but I would go back even 50 years."

As for the CTF, it had earned its stripes beyond the borders of Saskatchewan and Alberta. In reflecting on the rallies, Ontario organizers Paul Pagnuelo and Tom Charette are quick to share a favourite story. Standing outside the doorway of the Parkway Inn in St. Catharines as hundreds of folks streamed in to a rally, they are within earshot of the CBC's Paul Hunter, who turns to his cameraman and says, "we gotta start taking these guys seriously." 

“The grass-roots campaign ... had an impact. Mr. Martin was able to sell deeper spending cuts to his cabinet colleagues and steer them from raising tax rates on personal income.”

*The Wall Street Journal*  
March 1, 1995





# THE TEDDY

## Celebrating the best of the v



by Mark  
Milke

**W**hen you sort through as much government waste and questionable spending as do staff of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, you might as well have a sense of humour about it.

The “Teddy Awards” were created (and first awarded) in 1999, the brainchild of then-CTF Alberta director, myself, Mark Milke. I wanted to draw attention to a familiar story – how governments waste tax dollars – but without hammering the public or media over the head about it.

### **Before there was Mike Duffy, there was Ted Weatherill ...**

Reading through a federal auditor general’s report (CTF direc-

tors do this sort of thing), I stumbled upon a report about a former federal senior public servant, Ted Weatherill. He was terminated in 1998 for “expenses incurred by him ... incompatible with his position as Chairman of the Canada Labour Relations Board.” (That’s the official A-G language.)

Expenses included \$150,000 in meals over eight years – significantly more than had he followed department guidelines. Weatherill’s most famous expenses billed to taxpayers included:

- A \$733.43 lunch for two at the RPG Arpege in Paris;
- A \$531.50 dinner at the Royal Windsor Hotel in Brussels;
- \$70,700 spent on taxpayer-reimbursed meals in North America between 1989 and 1997 as opposed to the estimated \$19,400

that would have been spent had Weatherill followed Treasury Board guidelines.

### **A star (of government waste) is born!**

Given that it is almost impossible to fire a civil servant, the fact that Weatherill was let go meant his expense account violations were not only egregious but worthy of an award named after him.

Thus, aping the Grammy Awards and the Oscars, the Teddy Award was born. I proposed the CTF mimic the well-known awards by first nominating “worthy” recipients and then holding a media conference in Ottawa to announce the winners. The federal director, wearing a tux and accompanied by a model, would imitate the glamour of the more famous awards by announcing who among the nominees won the various awards and presenting a gold pig to the deserving winners in absentia.

The language that accompanies Teddy nominations was and is deliberately evocative of the more serious awards, to emphasize the absurdity of government carelessness with everyone’s tax dollars. The general description of The Teddy is as follows:

*The Ted Weatherill Award (a Teddy) is awarded annually to a public office holder, civil servant or agency of government, that most exemplifies government waste, overspending, over-taxation, excessive regulation, lack of accountability, or any combination of the five. A Teddy may be awarded to said recipient on the basis of past accomplishments in such areas, or on the basis of proposed initiatives*





# Y AWARDS

## worst of government waste

in the aforementioned categories.

The CTF originally came up with three categories: Federal, Provincial/Municipal and The Lifetime Achievement Award.

The original three categories have since expanded to four. (There has been so much waste at the local level we created a Teddy Award just for municipal politicians and governments and there is never a shortage of nominees.) A costumed pig was also added to the annual event, usually held in February or March during awards season.

# 2009



### GOVERNMENT SPENDING

## Senate wins big at Teddy Awards

Gala bestows golden sow statues to Canada's most egregious abusers of public funds.

**Q&A Agency**  
OTTAWA — The Senate was recognized Wednesday with a lifetime achievement award for being a bottomless pit of wasteful spending.  
The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) held its 16th annual Teddy Awards — a red carpet affair that bestows golden sow statues to Canada's most egregious abusers of public funds.  
Other winners include Employment and Social Development Canada for spending \$2.5 million to advertise a non-existent jobs grant program during the 2013 Stanley Cup playoffs.  
Alberta Premier Alison Redford was given a shout-out for shelling out taxpayers with a \$45,000 bill to fly her and an aide to Nelson Mandela's funeral.  
Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil expended \$96.44 for the same trip.

**Federal Winner**  
Employment and Social Development Canada  
The \$2.5 million was spent on ads for a program that doesn't exist. The \$55,000 Canada Jobs Grant program was advertised on TV during the Stanley Cup Playoffs in 2013 — but the program hasn't even been finalized yet.

**Provincial Winner**  
The \$2.5 billion Pan-Am Games is already \$1.1 billion over budget. But Troop added insult to injury collecting \$552,065 in annual salary, and expensing everything he could — from \$1.4 million for a parking lot with \$4.5 million for a parking lot with a \$2 toll that nobody uses.

**Local Winner**  
Vancouver's regional transit authority shelled out \$4.5 million for a parking lot with a \$2 toll that nobody ever uses. Commuters opt to park for free on nearby streets and other lots.

**Lifetime achievement**  
One former senator finishing out a jail term for fraud, another former senator and a suspended senator facing criminal charges (Patrick Brazeau, above), two suspended senators under police investigation, and dozens more dragging their feet on the auditor general's investigation of their spending... need we say more.

**Other nominees**  
Department of National Defence: \$14,000 for public opinion polling to determine Canadians' beliefs about the powers of super heroes.  
The School of the Public Service: \$1.7 million as the federal agency tasked with teaching ethics to government executives was cited for five years of dubious and unethical contracting practices with insiders.  
Hydro Quebec: \$1.92 million (est.) for unionized crane operators to play cards and watch TV while crane operators from Germany worked to build a hydro project.  
Brampton, Ont. Mayor Susan Fennell: With the highest salary in Canada (\$232,727) she still expensed \$2,162 for personalized barbeque aprons, \$1,326 for Mandarin Chinese lessons, and \$531 for hotel accommodations in nearby Toronto while taking the Chinese lessons.  
City of Winnipeg, Man.: The city built a fire hall on a developer's land without first securing the land and taxpayers are facing an undetermined expropriation bill.

Former Pan-Am Games CEO Ian Troop won a provincial Teddy for expensing 91 cents for parking and \$8,500 for a lavish party in Mexico. He collected \$552,065 in

annual salary before he was removed from the payroll. Vancouver's TransLink won local accolades for shelling out \$4.5 million for a parking lot with a \$2 toll that nobody uses.

Honourable mentions went to National Defence for spending \$14,000 on a survey to determine Canadians' beliefs in superheroes and more than \$70,000 to move Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie, an advisor to Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, to a new home only a few blocks away from his old place in one of Ottawa's swankiest neighbourhoods.

The Teddy's are named after Ted Weatherill, a former federal appointee, who treated the public purse as if it was his own personal piggy bank before being turtled for scarcity expense claims in 1999.

**POLITICS:** Others suggested Toronto's bad-boy mayor...

Who were the lucky winners? The envelope please....

Federal "winners" over the years include Public Works and Government Services Canada (1999) for outsourcing \$1.4 billion in government contracts and allowing Parliament Hill renovations to soar to an estimated \$1.4 billion from the original \$440-million budget; the majority of Canadian Alliance MPs (2001) for flip-flopping on the MP pension plan and opting back in to a plan they once so vehemently denounced; Chief Rog-

er Redman (2013), who earned more than the prime minister for leading the Standing Buffalo First Nation in Saskatchewan. In 2012 Redman earned \$194,737 tax-free, equivalent to \$317,583 for someone living off-reserve who paid federal and provincial income tax. In comparison, Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall's compensation was \$158,556 and Prime Minister Stephen Harper earned \$315,452.

Provincially, winners included the fired Toronto Pan-Am Games boss who earned \$552,065 a year and who claimed \$8,500 for a lavish party in Mexico as the games went \$1.1 billion over budget and Ontario's Ministry of Energy for installing 4.8 million "smart meters" at a cost overrun of \$900 million, while more than 800,000 of the meters were unable to transmit any data.

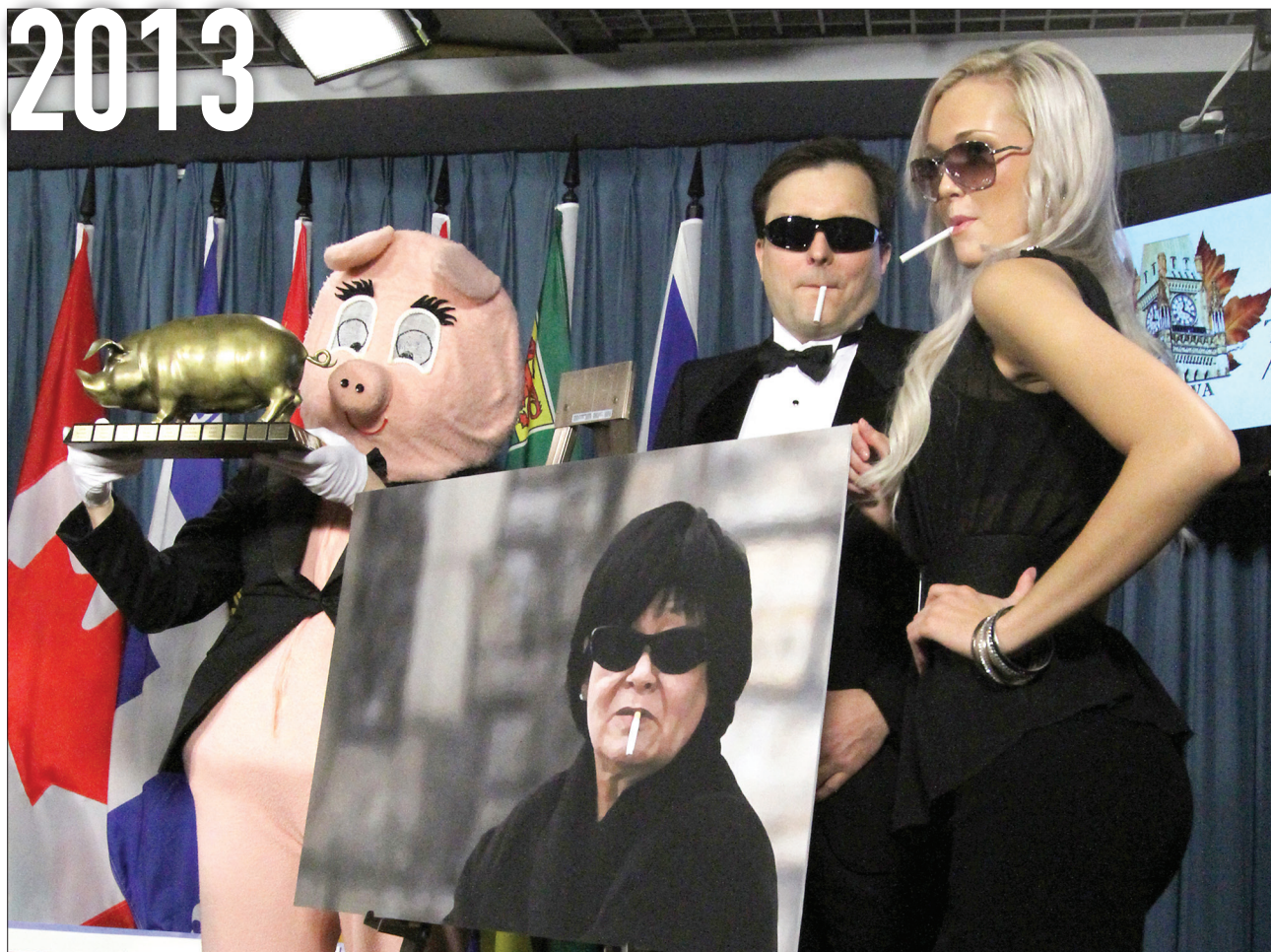
At the municipal level, Halifax Councillor Brad Johns won the award in 2015 after spending



# THE TEDDY

Celebrating the best of the v

2013



\$25,000 of taxpayer cash on an 18-foot talking Christmas tree.

The Lifetime Achievement Awards have gone to a very select group. They include: former Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty (in 2006) for levying the largest tax hike

in Ontario's history and passing multiple deficit budgets; a shared award to Chrysler and General Motors (in 2009) for the federal and Ontario governments' bailout of those two companies. Perhaps the most deserving recipient was former Bloc

Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe (2012). Duceppe collects \$140,765 in taxpayer-funded pension payments every year, this from a federal government he opposed on separatist principle and from a country he tried to break up!

## The past Teddy Awards by category

### Federal Winners

**2015:** Former MP and mayor of London Joe Fontana for criminal convictions for defrauding taxpayers – he altered the contract for his

son's wedding reception and submitted it to the House of Commons for a \$1,700 reimbursement, claiming it was actually for a function with the minister of Finance – and still collecting his \$122,000 annual

MP pension.

**2014:** Employment and Social Development Canada – wasted \$2.5 million on 2013 Stanley Cup play-off advertising for the non-existent



# Y AWARDS

## worst of government waste

Canada Jobs Grant.

**2013:** Standing Buffalo First Nation Chief Roger Redman for his \$194,737 tax-free salary (equivalent to \$317,583 for those who pay provincial and federal income tax), this on a reserve with 443 people.

**2012:** Agriculture Canada Tobacco Transition Program, which cost \$284 million and doubled the number of tobacco farmers in Canada.

**2011:** The G20 Summit in Toronto which cost \$1.24 billion, ironically organized to discuss how to trim government over-spending.

**2010:** MP mailers to voters, the cost of which increased by \$4.1 million over three years.

**2009:** Canada Council for the Arts, which spent \$15,000 to help bring a Belgian art exhibit to Quebec that produced a poop-like substance when fed with food. It also spent \$40,000 on a project that sought to fly a giant inflatable banana over the state of Texas.

**2008:** Senator Raymond Lavigne who was ordered to repay \$23,500 for travel expenses.

**2007:** Senator Colin Kenny for a Senate committee that stayed in a luxurious hotel in Dubai for seven days even though only one three-hour meeting was scheduled. The hotel bill was a cool \$30,000.

**2006:** Joe Volpe, MP for Eglinton Lawrence, for charging \$60,000 in travel and hospitality.

**2005:** Lucie McClung, commissioner of the Correctional Service of Canada, for spending \$142,000 travelling to Hong Kong, New

Zealand, Brazil, Barbados and Europe. She also expensed \$9,000 in meals, her \$500 Rideau Club membership fee and arranged a spa day for prisoners.

**2004:** Public Works Canada and the Sponsorship Scandal, in which the A-G revealed \$100 million was paid to firms for little or no work, including \$1.5 million to GroupAction for three identical reports.

**2003:** The Canadian Firearms Centre for costing at least \$1 billion – 430 times the original estimate.

**2002:** Farm Credit Canada for its \$433,000 name change from Farm Credit Corporation, including \$140,000 to “research” a single word adjustment.

**2001:** Canadian Alliance MPs elected in 1993 who opted back in to the MP pension plan.

**2000:** The Human Resources and Development Canada grant jobs scandal which at the time produced 19 police investigations – and no new jobs!

**1999:** Public Works and Government Services Canada for letting \$1.4 billion in untendered contracts in 1995 and for allowing the Parliament Hill renovation budget to balloon from \$440 million to \$1.4 billion.

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### Provincial Winners

**2015:** Ontario's Ministry of Energy for installing 4.8 million smart meters at a cost overrun





# THE TEDDY

## Celebrating the best of the v

of \$900 million.

**2014:** The fired Toronto Pan-Am Games boss who earned \$552,065 a year, claimed \$8,500 for a lavish party in Mexico and increasing the games' cost to \$2.5 billion, fully \$1.1 billion over budget.

**2013:** Former Alberta tourism minister Christine Cusanelli for committing the Alberta government to \$113,000 in empty hotel rooms.

**2012:** 21 Alberta MLAs who earned \$1,000 monthly as members of a committee that hadn't held a meeting since 2008.

**2011:** Ontario tax collectors who were paid severance even though they retained their jobs. They were paid up to \$45,000 each in severance for changing their business cards from "Ontario PST collector" to "Federal HST collector."

**2010:** Nova Scotia MLAs for their outrageous expense claims. A scathing audit revealed that between 2006 and 2009 they had expensed just about everything under the sun. The all-star was MLA Len Goucher, who expensed the Xbox game

Dance Dance Revolution.

**2009:** All Nations Coordinated Response Network for hosting a spa day for its employees. Tarot card readings, makeup lessons, manicures and pedicures were some of the activities at the "workshop."

**2008:** Quebec's former lieutenant-governor Lise Thibault for lavish spending including \$825 for a suite at the Ritz Carlton in Montreal; \$59,000 for a garden party; \$4,000 for a family member's birthday party; \$45,000 for gifts with no list of recipients provided; and \$2,400 for a five-night stay at the Mont Tremblant ski resort.

**2007:** Tom Parkinson, CEO of Hydro One, for \$45,000 in personal expenses, a \$1.5-million salary and a \$3-million severance cheque.

**2005:** Former Saskatchewan premier Roy Romanow and government bureaucrats at Sask-water (a province-owned utility), all of whom decided the prairie province needed a homegrown potato industry; the corporate welfare boondoggle

eventually cost taxpayers \$36 million when the potato farm went bankrupt.

**2004:** Manitoba Arts Council for awarding 5,000 tax dollars to fund Aliza Amihude's jewelry made with her toenails, pubic hair, mouse droppings and dead ladybugs.

**2003:** City of Winnipeg for a \$1-million toilet.

**2002:** Alberta's government for refusing to properly clarify former treasurer Stockwell Day's eligibility for so-called insurance coverage under its Risk Management Fund and for refusing to challenge the \$732,064 in legal bills, paid for by taxpayers to settle the \$60,000 defamation claim of Lorne Goddard against Day.

**2001:** Saskatchewan Investment and Gaming Authority and its former

## MLAs hog wild

Committee pays a grand a month to members — for not meeting

JACKIE L. LARSON  
Legislature Bureau

EDMONTON — Long name. Big bucks. Crying shame.  
The Canadian Taxpayers Federation gave a provincial Teddy award — a dubious distinction given to highlight government waste — to the legislature's largest commit-



The Calgary Sun ■ THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012

OTTAWA  
SUN

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012

BOOBY  
PRIZE  
WINNER

VIDEO

ottawasun.com/

# SHAG OF SH

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# Y AWARDS

## worst of government waste

CEO for squandering \$1.7 million of public money.

**2000:** Government of British Columbia for the Fast Ferry Fiasco, a \$454-million boondoggle.

**1999:** Government of British Columbia for spending \$400,000 on a photo radar photo verification manual. At 2,637 words, this manual cost \$152 per word.

### Municipal Winners (2005 to 2015)

**2015:** Halifax Councillor Brad Johns for buying a \$25,000 robotic Christ-

tach a pencil sharpener to a desk and \$266 to hang three pictures on a wall.

**2012:** Montreal's snowplow service, which plowed sidewalks before any snow fell.

**2011:** The City of Edmonton for spending \$5,000 on a contest to get people to write poems or haikus about riding the bus, despite already paying an official city poet laureate another \$5,000 a year to write poetry for the city.

**2010:** City of Toronto's homeless audit, which paid people \$100 daily

**2005:** Toronto City Hall for spending \$853,000 on hotel rooms for the homeless, who never checked in.

### Lifetime Achievement Award

**2015:** Greater Vancouver's transportation authority, TransLink

**2014:** The Canadian Senate

**2013:** MP Bev Oda

**2012:** Quebec separatist and Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe

**2011:** Former Toronto mayor David Miller

**2010:** MPs' gold-plated pensions.

**2009:** The Chrysler-General Motors bailout from the federal and Ontario governments.

**2008:** The Canadian Tax Code

**2007:** Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty

**2006:** Former federal cabinet minister David Dingwall

**2005:** Former federal cabinet minister André Ouellet

**2004:** Governor General Adrienne Clarkson

**2003:** Prime Minister Jean Chrétien

**2002:** Federal cabinet minister Brian Tobin

**2001:** Former BC premier Glen Clark

**2000:** Former federal heritage minister Sheila Copps

**1999:** Former Conservative finance minister Michael Wilson 

## Watchdog slams tobacco 'boondoggle'

Wasteful government ideas know no limit

### Duceppe-tion takes cake

Separatist's pension wins taxpayer Teddy for waste

**MAIN POINT**  
Senior National Register  
OTTAWA — Former Bloc leader Gilles Duceppe's gold-plated pension was tested down the red carpet of the glitz, Oscar-like Teddy Awards.  
The showcase event hosted by the Canadian Taxpayers Fed-



to dress up and pretend to be homeless.

**2009:** City of Vancouver for its 2010 Olympic athletes' village, incurring \$875 million in debt building the condos.

**2008:** Former Toronto Catholic School Board trustee Christine Nunziata for expensing vacations in Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

**2007:** The City of Edmonton for spending \$30,000 to hire 30 actors in Washington to hand out yo-yos in the US capital on Canada Day.

**2006:** Richmond, BC, council members for taking 16 trips around the world at taxpayers' expense.

mas tree at taxpayers' expense.

**2014:** Vancouver's TransLink for building a \$4.5-million parking lot that no one uses.

**2013:** The Toronto Maintenance and Skilled Trades Council for billing the Toronto District School Board \$143 to at-

group crowns NCC  
among year's biggest  
of money >> PAGE 4





# GAS TAX HONESTY



by Jeff  
Bowes  
Research Director

**I**n April 1999, an online campaign urged Canadians not to buy gas on April 30. The boycott was meant to send the message that consumers were fed up with high gas prices.

The public outcry was directed at oil companies and gas retailers but the government's role in high gas prices was being ignored.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation had a different message about gas prices. Federal director Walter Robinson put it this way: "While we applaud the sense of advocacy and share consumer frustration at high gas prices, this anger is misplaced. The real targets of any consumer outrage should be federal and provincial politicians."

And thus the first "Gas Tax Honesty Day" was held on May 20, 1999, the Thursday before the Victoria Day long weekend. As Canadians were making their road trip plans we re-focused and re-directed consumer frustration over high gas prices at government. This was only fair: taxes by the federal and provincial governments accounted for more than 50% of the pump price. Making things much worse, the federal government was only spending 6% of the \$5 billion it collected each year on road and highway improvement.

The event was a huge success. Canadians had been unaware of just how badly they were being ripped off and how little of their gas taxes were being invested in roads. Every May since then we have held Gas Tax Honesty Day events across the country.

Probably the most ridiculous aspect of gas taxes is that GST/HST is calculated *on top of* provincial and federal excise taxes. That means that every time you fill up you're paying tax on tax. Our message to "axe the tax on tax" resonates with Canadian drivers; it even resonates with Stephen Harper (or at least it did back in 2004).

When he was opposition leader, Harper said: "The fastest and easiest way to give Canadians relief at the pump is for the federal government to stop charging GST on top of gasoline excise taxes. It's time to axe the tax on the tax." We've repeated that quote every year since he became prime minister and will continue to until Harper listens to himself.

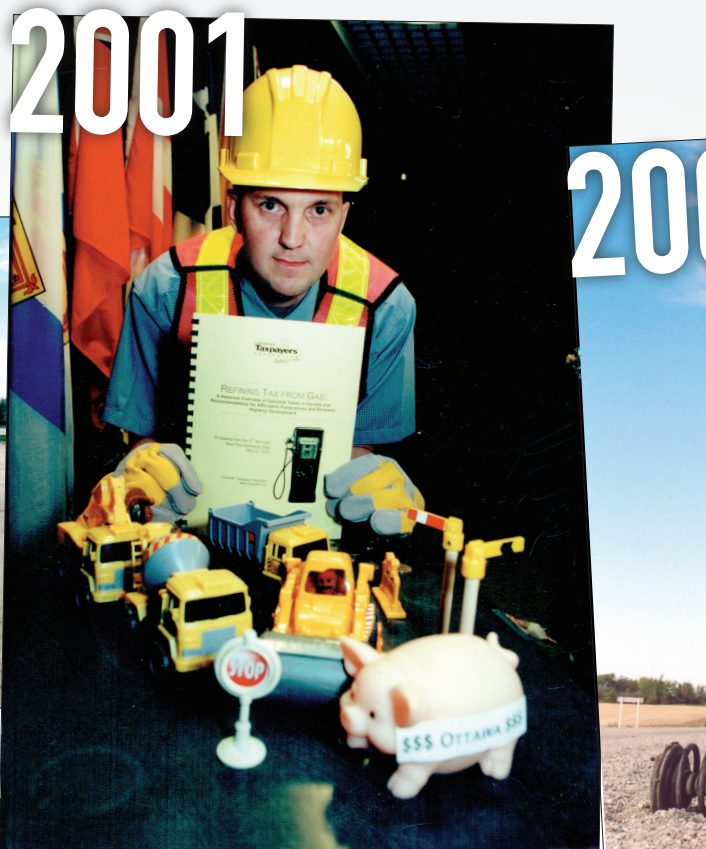
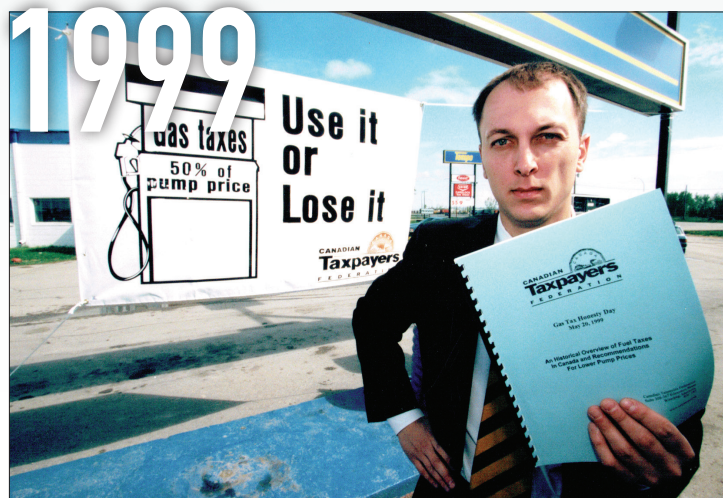
From the very beginning, we have pushed for the federal government to invest the revenues from gas taxes into roads and highways. In 2002 we made that proposal more concrete by introducing the idea of a Municipal Roadway Trust. This trust would

return half of the gas tax revenues the federal government collected to municipalities to spend on roads and highways.

In 2004, federal director John Williamson drove a minivan that read "Running on Empty — Fuming to Ottawa" from Mile 0 of the TransCanada Highway in Victoria to Parliament Hill. Along the 7,163 km drive he stopped in 40 communities, collecting 80,000 signatures on our petition asking that fuel taxes be cut in half and the remaining tax be dedicated to the Municipal Roadway Trust.

The drive across Canada was a big media success and because there was an ongoing federal election campaign the party leaders were forced to respond. They all committed to dedicating a portion of the fuel tax to municipal roads and highways. Harper went even further and promised to cut gas taxes if he were elected, which he hasn't done yet.

The Liberals won the election and in their 2005 federal budget they dedicated \$1 billion of the federal government's gas tax revenue to municipal infrastructure each year. This





# DAY

was a positive first step. However infrastructure was defined too broadly and in some cases, roads were not entitled to funds.

The Conservatives have improved the Gas Tax Fund. In 2007 they increased the fund to \$2 billion a year and the restrictions on spending were improved. By 2009-10, 52% of the federal government's fuel tax revenues were being invested in roads and highways. However there are still problems with the Gas Tax Fund; the biggest one is that the definition of infrastructure keeps expanding. It now includes broadband Internet and sports facilities.

Despite these issues, the federal government got remarkably close to what the CTF first called for in 2002. In 2009 federal director Kevin Gaudet put it like this: "The federal government should be commended for its real action on roadway spending. We are often critical — and rightly so — about how government spends our money, but this is an example of where government gets something right."

A couple of provinces have done even better. In 2004 Manitoba, and in 2006 Saskatchewan, introduced *Gas Tax Accountability Acts*. These acts ensured gas taxes were accounted for and were dedicated to roads and in-

frastructure. We have encouraged other provinces and the federal government to pass similar legislation.

We have also been advocating an end to the 1.5 cents/L "deficit elimination gas tax." It was introduced in 1995 to balance the budget, but when the budget was balanced in 1997 the tax remained. It survived 11 surpluses between 1997 and 2007. With the Conservative government's return to deficits our appeals to end the tax were less effective but now that the government has returned to surplus we have renewed our efforts.

In 2014 we sent open letters to the four federal party leaders demanding they end the deficit elimination gas tax. CTF federal director Gregory Thomas summarized it like this: "We've suffered with this penny-and-a-half

“Probably the most ridiculous aspect of gas taxes is that GST/HST is calculated on top of provincial and federal excise taxes.”

per litre rip-off for nearly 20 years now. The Harper government is projecting a surplus. Why do they need \$606 million in deficit reduction tax?"

The *Gas Tax Fund* and *Gas Tax Accountability Acts* have shown the positive effect the CTF's Gas Tax Honesty Campaign has had. Yet despite the improvements in spending on roads, governments continue to gouge Canadian drivers with high gas taxes.

We have made some progress but after 17 years of Gas Tax Honesty Day there is still a lot of work to do. **t**



2012





# Thank You

## OUR FOUNDERS CLUB

**T**wenty-five years ago there was no *The Taxpayer* magazine. There was no laundry list of victories. There was no professional group of communicators, researchers and advocates from coast to coast working full-time. In 1990, there was little more than an idea. An idea to create a permanent taxpayers organization that would be ready to do battle with governments when they tried to waste our money and hike our taxes.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation wasn't built by our founding president Kevin Avram alone and it wasn't built by our founding board alone. Door by door, person by person the CTF was built. It was built by a few thousand Canadians who bought into the idea of creating something important. They pulled out their cheque books and gave a donation to one of our dedicated field agents to make that dream a reality.

Over the years some have moved on, some have passed on, but many remain.

In fact, an astonishing 2,600 Canadians have pulled

out their cheque books and made a donation every single year since our founding.

These great Canadians are our *Founders Club*.

In this, our special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of *The Taxpayer*, the staff, field agents and board of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation wanted to dedicate a few pages to thank the members of the *Founders Club*.

In keeping with the important tradition of the secret ballot, we believe in the fundamental right every Canadian has to privacy. So we aren't going to thank every one of the 2,600 Canadians in the *Founders Club* by name, because not all of them wanted to be publicly thanked. But others were willing to be recognized. Some even sent us photos and messages.

To every member of the *Founders Club*, thank you. Thank you for believing in creating a permanent taxpayers group. We hope you're proud of all that you've accomplished.

**- The staff, field agents and board of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation**

Lorne & Irene Acton (ILA Farms Ltd) – Unity, SK

Marjorie & Stan Acton – Lemberg, SK

Orville & Deborah Acton – Weyburn, SK

Roy & Louise Adam (Roy-L Farms Ltd.) – Fort Saskatchewan, AB

Royal Adderson (Royal Wayne Motel Ltd) – Calgary, AB

William & Phyllis Alcorn – Alliance, AB

Roberta Allan – Rathwell, MB

Clifton Amundson – Debden, SK

Norm & Darlaine Andersen (Anderlane Farms) – Salmon Arm, BC

David Anderson (Davlen Holdings Ltd.) – Naicam, SK

Vern & Anne Anderson – Virden, MB

Lloyd & Verna Andrews – Lloydminster, SK

Jerry Angelstad (Angelstad's Quick Cobbler) – Humboldt, SK

Harvey & Dianne Antonsen (H.A. Antonsen & Co. Ltd.) – Aldergrove, BC

Donald & Lynda Arendt (Arendt Farms Ltd.) – Eastend, SK

Don Armitage – Duchess, AB

Andrew & Gord Assinger (Assinger Lumber Ltd.) – Stony Plain, AB

Murray & Sharon Assman – Borden, SK

Charlie Bagshaw (Bagshaw Electric Ltd.) – Stettler, AB

John & Beth Armbruster (Armbruster Lumber Ltd.) – Stony Plain, AB

Ron Balsdon (Automatic Controls Ltd.) – Edmonton, AB



Doug & Carol Bailey – Eatonia, SK

Doyle & Lynda Baily – Oak River, MB

Allan & Irene Baird – Bashaw, AB

Ray & Sharon Ball (Prairie Pump Service (1994) Ltd.) – Weyburn, SK

Siegfried & Betty Bansch (Lazy S.B. Simmentals) – Goodsoil, SK

Mal Barber (Barber Motors (1963) Ltd.) – Weyburn, SK

Kim & Sylvia Barbero – Pincher Creek, AB

Gordon Barnett – Tisdale, SK

George Barr – Lloydminster, AB

Alvin & Audrey Barth – Radisson, SK

Wayne Bashforth – Okla, SK

Glenn Bauer (Ventures West Transport Inc.) – Sturgeon County, AB

Elmer & Mavis Bauer – Maple Creek, SK



# Thank You

Ewald Baumgardner – Goodsoil, SK

Fred Baxter (Tribuild Contracting (Calgary) Ltd.) – Calgary, AB

Eugene Bayda (Tower Glass Ltd.) – Melfort, SK

Lavern Bazin (Westlock Ford Sales Ltd.) – Westlock, AB

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Mercer Bell – Vermilion, AB

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Wayne Bennett (Benco Electric Ltd.) – Calgary, AB

Patrick & Loretta Benning – Weyburn, SK

Roman Bergerman (Bergerman & Associates Ltd.) – Saskatoon, SK

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Marylin Bleakney – Turtleford, SK

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William Body – Luseland, SK

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Ray & Trudy Boldt – Glenbush, SK

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Malcolm & Della Bowker – Unity, SK

Len & Margaret Bowman (Mardelen Holsteins Ltd.) – Chilliwack, BC

Jim & Betty Boyd – Bashaw, AB

Jack & Margaret Boyd – Hamiota, MB

Bill Book (Book Insulations Ltd.) – Spruce Grove, AB



Dale & Linn Brady – Carlyle, SK

Gerald & Marlene Britton (Ken Rae Farms Ltd.) – Aylsham, SK

Ray Broadbent (Blueline Builders Ltd.) – Stony Plain, AB

Richard, Betty & Mark Brooks – Wynyard, SK:

*Becoming and remaining a member of this organization has been a positive occurrence for*

Glenn Brost – Maple Creek, SK



*our family. I would be proud to see my name listed as a founding supporter of our organization.*

Raymond & Helen Brotzel – Kerrobert, SK

Dwight Brown (Brown's Chrysler Jeep) – Westlock, AB

Trevor Brown (Ideal Insulation (1979) Ltd.) – Calgary, AB

Clifford & Marlene Brown – Lethbridge, AB

Bryon Brown – Carlyle, SK

Bruce & Juanita Brownlee (Sprucelane Acres Ltd.) – Kelvington, SK

George & Emma Bullee – Alliance, AB

Albert & Cathie Burgmaier (Burgmaier Farm & Ranch Inc.) – Meadow Lake, SK

Bruce Burns – Calgary, AB

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Edward & Lois Cadrin (Brickyard Farms Ltd.) – Meota, SK

Don & Janet Calladine (Cee Bar Farm Ltd.) – Weyburn, SK

Doreen Cameron – Tompkins, SK

Gordon & Doreen Cameron – Saskatoon, SK

Walter & Joyce Campbell – Waseca, SK

Roland Carles (Daleview Farms Inc.) – Radville, SK



# Thank You

Kenneth & Jean Carleton – Swift Current, SK

Francis & Susan Carpenter – Hanley, SK

Murry Carson (Monarch Messenger Service Ltd.) – Calgary, AB

Jim Carter – Kenton, MB

Stanley Case – Edmonton, AB

Ray & Liz Cherniak – Ardrossan, AB

Walter Chimera – Fort Saskatchewan, AB:

*In memory of Walter Chimera, a concerned Canadian who hated to see waste.*

Melvin & Evelyn Christensen – Kyle, SK

Bruce Christie & Larry Lee (H & H Auto Service) – Calgary, AB

Ken & Lovane Clancy (Clancy Seeds Ltd.) – Carrot River, SK

Peggy & Osborne Clark – Erskine, AB:

*In memory of Osborne*

Jim Clarke (JRD Investments Inc) – Lloydminster, AB

Larry & Helen Clarke – Meota, SK

Gordon & Marjorie Classen (Classen Farms Inc.) – Aylsham, SK

Emile & Lorraine Cloutier – Morinville, AB

Harry & Anna Collin – Camrose, AB

Keith & Dale Conacher (Willow Hollow Farm) – Mervin, SK

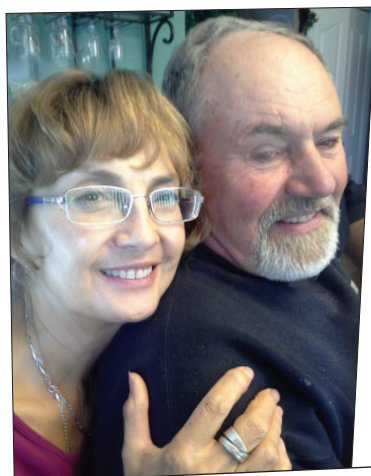
Douglas & Sally Connelly (Connelly Cattle Co. Ltd.) – Lundbreck, AB

George & Mona Connelly – Midale, SK

Bob Cook – Didsbury, AB

Jim & Ann Coolidge (Northridge Farm Ltd.) – Lashburn, SK

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Anne Haarsma (Haarsma Farms) – Spruce Grove, AB



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Ron Damberger (Daysland Plumbing & Heating) – Daysland, AB

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Tony & Vi Day (Fast Trucking Service Ltd.) – Carnduff, SK

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Dwite & Linda Demerse – Truax, SK

Gary & Rose Demmans – Meadow Lake, SK

Leroy & Carol Demong (L'Oil Patch Service) – Cudworth, SK

Laurent & Karen Denis (Deja Vu Farms) – St. Denis, SK:

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for your relentless efforts in trying to keep our elected officials honest and responsible.*

James & Lorraine Dibben – Vermilion, AB

# Thank You

Cliff Dobson – Moosomin, SK

Peter Doell – Warman, SK

Leo & Eleanor Donahue – Fort Macleod, AB:

*In memory of Leo*

Gary & Dauna Dorchester – Westeros, AB

Bryce Dougan – Strathmore, AB

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Wayne & Donna Drummond – Lauder, MB

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Dale & Donna Durrant – Moose Jaw, SK

Brian & Yvonne Edwards – Turtleford, SK

Ed & Ann Egert – Cando, SK

James & Laurette Eischen – Meota, SK

Ed Elder – Wilkie, SK

Jack Ellis (J.S. Ellis Professional Corp.) – Edmonton, AB

Mike Elmgren (Elmgren Investments Ltd.) – Shaunavon, SK

David & Linda Englot – Glenavon, SK

Daniel & Emily Eurich (Eurich Farms Ltd.) – Luseland, SK

Don & Dianne Evans – Kyle, SK

Norman & Jean Evans – Weyburn, SK

Edwin (Ted) Everitt – Star City, SK

Dennis & Marie Fagnou (Fagnou Enterprises Ltd.) – St. Brieux, SK

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Otto & Garry Fandrich – Eastend, SK

Murray R. Farness (Farness Farms Inc.) – Ohaton, AB

Bill & Pat Fasick (B & P Cycle And Sports 2000 INC) – Calgary, AB

Doug & Adah Fawcett – Consort, AB

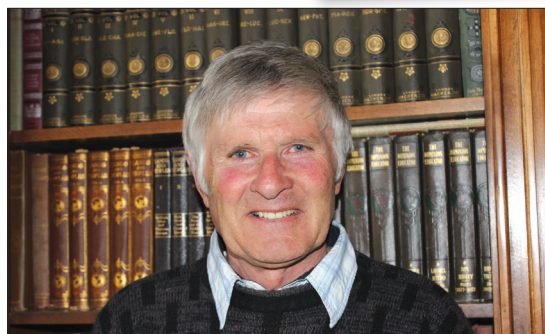
Allan & Trudy Fawell (Fawell Farms Ltd.) – Unity, SK

Craig & Nancy Fehr (Calgary Aluminum Custom Fabrication Ltd.) – Calgary, AB

Stan & Debbie Fischback – Westlock, AB

Dale & Dorothy Fischer – Didsbury, AB

Edward Goodliffe – Busby, AB



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Dan & Janet Fisher – Luseland, SK

Doug Fleming & Marv Dunwald (Dunwald & Fleming Enterprises Ltd.) – Calgary, AB

Mark Griffin (I.C.E. Northern Sales) – Edmonton, AB



Kurt Feigel Jr. (Universe Machine Corporation) – Edmonton, AB



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Violet & Wayne Fletcher – Kelvington, SK

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Muriel Foster – Lloydminster, SK

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Garth & Donna Freeman – Weyburn, SK

Kurt Freitag (Freitag Farms Ltd.) – Lampman, SK

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Walter & George Froese (Froese Farm Syndicate) – Rivers, MB

Donald & Elaine Fulton – Lloydminster, SK

Peter Gatzach (Lignum Interiors Inc.) – Calgary, AB

Reg & Emelia Gerwing – Lake Lenore, SK

Barry & Marion Ghiglione (Handyman Group of Companies) – Saskatoon, SK

Joe Gilchrist (Cypress Cattle Co. Ltd.) – Maple Creek, SK



# Thank You

Keith & Theresa Gilchrist –  
Pickardville, AB

David Gillatt – Maymont, SK

Diane Gilson (Cascade Glass Ltd.)  
– Calgary, AB

Richard & Sharon Girard (Girard  
Farms) – Eastend, SK

Arnold & Sandra Glassford (Prairie  
Ag Ventures) – Unity, SK

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Printing Ltd.) – Estevan, SK

Roland & Rose Goertz – Stony  
Plain, AB

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Contracting Ltd.) – Drayton Valley, AB

Leonard & Elaine Greenhough – Makwa, SK

Stephen & Susanne Greenway – Hanna,  
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Raymond & Jeanine Grosjean – Delmas, SK

Terry Guenther – Swift Current, SK

Pete & Rose Hachkowski – Birtle, MB

Leslie & Inge Hack – Grenfell, SK

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Lacombe, AB

Allen & Beverley Hagel – Estevan, SK

Kevin Haight – Unity, SK

Don Hajash – Brooks, AB

Bill & Bobbie Hamblin – Vermilion, AB

Milo & Olive Hanson – Biggar, SK

Murray & Bonnie Hayes – Laporte, SK

Brian & Sandra Heaman – Hargrave, MB

Robert Hein – Makwa, SK

Carolyn Heinrich (Partner's Hair Design)  
– Yorkton, SK

Melvin & Marlene Heintz – Luseland, SK

Brian Heisler – Marquis, SK

Allan & Angie Hemauer – Langenburg, SK

John & Joan Hengen – Windthorst, SK

Albert Henne – Kelfield, SK

Herb & Joyce Frank – Eaton, SK



Annie Lampitt – Marshall, SK:

*Aged 92 years, Annie (Nan) has been on the family farm near Marshall, Saskatchewan nearly all her life. Her father, Henry Fisher, was a Bar Colonist and the first to settle in the area in 1905. When he retired Nan and her husband Alf took over the farm. Alf deceased 17 years ago but Nan still lives on the farm.*



Dennis & Lorraine Hennig – Spruce  
Grove, AB

Arnold & Donna Henry (Allied  
Transmissions Ltd) – Calgary, AB

Fred & Christine Henty – Sintaluta, SK

Morley Hepfner (Richfield Equipment Ltd.)  
– Okotoks, AB

Don Herndier (Southview Seed  
Farm) – Lemberg, SK

Lorne & Willena Herndier –  
Melville, SK

Verne & Marlene Hewlitt –  
Eston, SK:

*Congratulations on a job well done. Keep up the good work!*

Leora Hewstan – Edmonton,  
AB

Brian Hicke – Melville, SK

Ron & Sharon Hierath –  
Lethbridge, AB:

*My involvement with Kevin Avram, founder of the Taxpayers Association, dates back to the late 80s when I was a director of the Western Canadian Wheatgrowers Association with Kevin as the executive director. Following his tenure here, Kevin went on to start the Saskatchewan Taxpayers Association and a few years later, the Alberta Taxpayers Association.*

*Because of our previous association at the Wheatgrowers Association, Kevin asked me to sit on the Advisory Board for the Alberta Taxpayers. I agreed, and then attended the Taxpayers Convention in Calgary in January, 1993. Subsequently, I became very fired up about high taxes, deficits and debt in Alberta.*

*In March of 1993, Premier Ralph Klein came to Milk River. After hearing him speak, I decided to seek the PC nomination for my constituency. In June, I was elected as the MLA for the Taber-Warner constituency. I was driven mostly by the goal to balance the budget and to deregulate agriculture.*

*The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has helped make provincial and federal governments accountable to the people for 25 years. I congratulate Adam*

# Thank You

*Daifallah, Chairman of the Board,  
Troy Lanigan, President and CEO  
and all the present and past staff  
and board members for the great  
success over the past 25 years.*

Stephen & Bonnie Higgs (Lilac Ridge  
Farm Co. Ltd.) – Abbotsford, BC

Helen Hill – Lacombe, AB

Martin Hislop – Calgary, AB

Glenn & Lorraine Hnidy – Wakaw, SK

Reg & Jonas Hoegl (Balancesoil  
Farm Ltd.) – Lloydminster, SK

John & Marilyn Hoegl (Hoegl Farms)  
– Lloydminster, SK:

*In memory of John*

Keith & Maxine Hoffman –  
Battleford, SK

Garry Hoffman – Killaly, SK

Don & Jeanne Hoiland – Zenon  
Park, SK

Donald & Arlene Hollman –  
Lloydminster, SK

Richard Holmes (Provost News) –  
Provost, ALTA

Grant & Bonnie-Lynn Holtby –  
Marshall, SK

Cyril & Shirley Hood – Foam Lake,  
SK

Victor & Lidy Hoogendoorn (Hoogen  
Farm Ltd.) – Stony Plain, AB

Darren Horsman (Indian Head  
Agencies Ltd.) – Indian Head, SK

Gladstone or Brian Horton (GT Horton  
Agencies Ltd.) – Marwayne, AB

Dennis & Sandra Houk (Hauk Farms Ltd.)  
– Battleford, SK

Russel & Connie Houston – Lacadena, SK

Gary & Marian Hovdebo (Hotshot Fire  
Trucks Ltd) – Stony Plain, AB

Fred J. & Sandra G. Howells – Weyburn,  
SK

Adrien Huberdeau (A & C Huberdeau  
Farms Ltd.) – St. Lazare, MB

Henry W. & Arlene Hughes – Madden, AB

Gordon & Annie Lantz – Clyde, AB



Arthur & Lois Loewen – Chilliwack, BC



Stanley Humbke (Humbke Industries –  
Millet, AB

Cheryl Hume – Maidstone, SK

Rod Hymas (Grasswold Farms Ltd.) –  
Standard, AB

Gordon & Joan Jackson – Speers, SK

Lloyd & Kathleen Jackson – Speers, SK

Henry Jacobs (Jacob's Farms Inc.) –  
Abbotsford, BC

Rene & Patsy Jacques – Wawota, SK:

*You are doing a wonderful job!*

Terry & Cheryl James – Dinsmore,  
SK

Glen & Sharon James – Carstairs,  
AB

Kenneth & Marjorie Janes –  
Lestock, SK

Delwyn Jansen (Four 20 Farm) –  
Humboldt, SK

Harold & Colleen Jenkins (Jenkins  
Farm) – Humboldt, SK

R.J. (Dick) Jennings – Condor, AB

Darrell & Karen Jespersen (Glory  
View Farms Ltd.) – Stony Plain,  
AB

John Joa – St. Walburg, SK

Edward & Sarah Johansen –  
Arborefield, SK

Frank & Toni John (Heirloom Holdings  
Ltd.) – Estevan, SK

Conrad & Fay Johnson (Can Am Farms  
Ltd.) – Bracken, SK

Stan & Martha Johnson – Spruce Lake,  
SK

Mike Jomma (Modern Beauty Supplies  
Inc.) – Calgary, AB

May Jones – Ladysmith, BC

Albert Jorgensen – Redvers, SK

David & Gloria Jouan – Tomahawk, AB

Ken, Bob And Judy Kahovec (Kahovec  
Farms) – Rosetown, SK

Elke Kanehl (Holborn Poultry Farms  
Ltd.) – Stony Plain, AB

Kevin & Marilyn Kapell – Windthorst, SK

Don & Marjorie Karl – Lethbridge, AB

Steve & Mary Kawulich (Kawulich  
Farms) – Westlock, AB

Robert & Valerie Keller – Gull Lake, SK

Vern Kemble (Little Edgewater Holdings  
Ltd.) – Indus, AB

Lorne Kemp (Chinook Refrigeration) –  
Calgary, AB

Rick Kemp (Kemp Farms Ltd.) – Innisfail,  
AB

Margaret E. Kemp – North Battleford, SK



# Thank You

A. Glenn & Marvie Kenny – Oyen, AB

Larry & Murielle Kesenheimer –  
Pierceland, SK

Raymond & Cecilia Kessel (Kessel  
Family Farm) – Balgonie, SK

Richard & Linda Kiedrowski (Kiedrowski  
Farms Inc.) – Humboldt, SK

Hessel Kielstra (Shirra Sales) – Calgary,  
AB

Shelly Kievits (New Dawn Wellness  
Centre & Karma Salon) – Weyburn, SK

Kelly King (Regina Fastprint) – Regina,  
SK

Max or Dale Kinsella – Westlock, AB

Edward & Gloria Kjargaard – North  
Battleford, SK

Robert & Brenda Kjemhus (Spruceview  
Farms) – Hythe, AB

Paul Klaassen (P.W.M.  
Steel Services Ltd.) –  
Lloydminster, SK

Art Klassen (Klassen  
Ranching Ltd.) – Big  
Stone, AB

Clara Klassen – Killarney,  
MB

Jim Klemke (M & M  
Equipment Ltd.) – Regina,  
SK

Gene Knudsen –  
Coronach, SK

Gerald & Julie Kobelsky –  
Landis, SK

Maynard Kobelsky – Wilkie, SK

Roxanne Koehler (Lo-Cost Auto  
Wrecking) – North Battleford, SK

Eric Koester – Rockyford, AB

John Kolla (Kolla Bros.) – Cudworth, SK

Al & Gayle Kreutzer – Govan, SK

Helmut Kroeker (Pulse Fitness Systems  
Inc.) – Winnipeg, MB

Robert Krueger – Borden, SK

John & Betty Kundrik – Lethbridge, AB

Margaret Kurtz & Miguel Rojas Morales –  
Pickardville, AB

Darryl McLean (MTD Contracting Ltd.)  
– Sturgeon County, AB



Roy & Vera Larison – Clyde, AB

Verna Larson – Sturgis, SK

Lawrence Larson – Saskatoon, SK

Eric & Laurelyn Laughlin – Rosedale, BC

Laurie Lautenslager (Clover Leaf Cheese  
Ltd.) – Calgary, AB

Leon & Marlene Lavoie – Battleford, SK

Delbert Lawrence – Fort Saskatchewan,  
AB

Alan & Brenda Leach (Star Prairie Farm  
Inc.) – Kindersley, SK

Kevin & Kay Lelond – Miniota, MB

Greg Lemay (Forestburg Agencies Ltd.) –  
Forestburg, AB

Alford William & Debbie  
Leslie – Sedgewick, AB

Kam & Sherry Leung  
(Crist Service) – Calgary,  
AB

Harmen & Rita Leusink –  
Picture Butte, AB

Don Lewis (Don Lewis  
Automotive) – Ponoka,  
AB

Stanley Lewis –  
Claresholm, AB

Allan, Elsie & Garry Lock  
– Beaverlodge, AB

Ernie Loewen –  
Rosenort, MB

David & Eileen Long – Ponoka, AB

William & Margaret Longstaff – Cardale,  
MB

Murray & Pam Lough – Moosomin, SK

Marcel & Dorothy Lukan – Lloydminster,  
AB

Norman & Paddy Lunde – Airdrie, AB

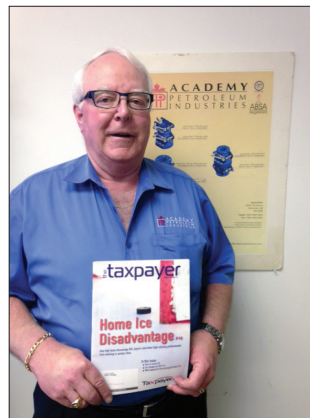
Keith R. Lyons (K & J Autobody Ltd.) –  
Calgary, AB

Lou MacEachern (Fortune Industries Ltd.)  
– Calgary, AB

Harold M. Maguire – Souris, MB

Ralph & Carol Maier – Cochrane, AB

Duane Nelson (Academy  
Petroleum Industries) –  
Edmonton, AB



Jeff Polovick (The Driving Force  
Inc.) – Edmonton, AB



Brian &  
Brenda

Laboucane – St. Walburg, SK

Denis Lalonde (Golden Mobility & Rehab  
Ltd.) – Saskatoon, SK

Barry & Judith Lane (Barjy Farm Ltd.) –  
Unity, SK

Siegfried & Marjorie Lang – Raymore, SK

Don & Audrey Lang – Westlock, AB

Doug & Vera Lange – Goodsoil, SK

Jack & Barbara Lange – Goodsoil, SK

Carmen Langevin (Flying C Veterinary  
Services PC) – Weyburn, SK

# Thank You

Gerald & Marjorie Mandtler – Spiritwood, SK

Glen & Brenda Manners (Manners Bros. Farming Co. Ltd.) – Lloydminster, SK

John Mans (Phoenix Farms Ltd.) – Nobleford, AB

Carey & Mark Mantei (Mantei Woodcraft Ltd.) – Calgary, AB

Ray Mariash (Outboard Rebores Ltd.) – Winnipeg, MB

Chris Mario (Regina Auto Body) – Regina, SK

Jack & Lorrie Marksteiner – Lake Lenore, SK

Glenn & Alison Marshall – Kyle, SK

Walter & Rosella Martens – Glenbush, SK

G.A. (Greg) Martin (Engenium Chemicals Corp.) – Calgary, AB

Jim & Belva Martin (Martin Enterprises Ltd.) – Laporte, SK

Charles & Bernice Martin – Biggar, SK

James & Eleanor Martin – Beaverlodge, AB

Lori Mathers (Rod's Decorating Centre Ltd.) – Prince Albert, SK

Robert & Julie Matzner (Robinson Creek Farm Ltd.) – Leoville, SK

Erwin Mayerle (Greenleaf Seeds Ltd.) – Tisdale, SK

Renald Mazenc (Mazenc Fuels Ltd.) – Regina, SK

Harvey & Carolyn McDonald – Richard, SK

Glenn & Jeanann McEwen – Regina, SK

Earl & Audrey McKee (E & A McKee Holdings Ltd.) – Spruce Lake, SK

Doug & Judy McKell – Indian Head, SK

Susan McKennitt (Carnduff Electric Ltd.) – Carnduff, SK

Martin McKervery (Empire Truck Parts Ltd.) – Calgary, AB

Vic McKinney (John's Sandblasting & Painting) – Edmonton, AB

Bill & Marg McLaren (B & D Farm Ltd.) – Maidstone, SK

Daphne McLaren – Maidstone, SK

Tom & Irene McMillan (McMillan Farms Inc.) – Pickardville, AB

Henry McWatters – Mildred, SK

Michael Medvid – Sheho, SK

Barb Mehling (Yorkton Sewing Centre) – Yorkton, SK

Joe & Gladys Meinczinger – Warburg, AB

Brent Metzker (Super-Bee Striping & Accessories) – Wetaskiwin, AB

Neil Michel (Michelson Farms) – Crossfield, AB

George & Linda Michie – Rumsey, AB

Daryl Milleker (Milleker Financial Inc.) – Regina, SK

Jeff & Laurie Miller – Calgary, AB

Dennis Miller – Windthorst, SK

George Mills & Dave McKean (Midway Distributors Ltd.) – Lloydminster, AB

Glen Mitchell – Moose Jaw, SK

Jim & Kay Montgomery Currie – Mervin, SK

Anthony Muggli – Humboldt, SK

Roger & Jane Muir – Rosedale, BC

Dennis & Anna Nagy – Humboldt, SK

Edward Nash (J.E. Nash Ent. Ltd.) – Slave Lake, AB

Fred Neil (Cell Farms Ltd.) – Hartney, MB

Robert & Vivian Nelson (Great Western Grain Co.) – Lloydminster, SK

Merle Nesbitt – Treherne, MB

Ken & Heather Neuls (K & H Neuls Farms Ltd.) – Grenfell, SK

Ken & Velma Neumann – Saskatoon, SK

Margaret Newell – Arborfield, SK

Steve & Elaine Newman (T-1 Holdings Ltd.) – Lloydminster, SK

Walter Newman – Lloydminster, SK

Charlie & Sandy Newton – Penhold, AB

Bob & Elaine Niccolls (Niccolls Mobility Plus) – Rosetown, SK

Adam Niesner Jr. (Adam Niesner Realty (1991) Ltd.) – Regina, SK

Lanny & Jill Nordstrom – Melfort, SK

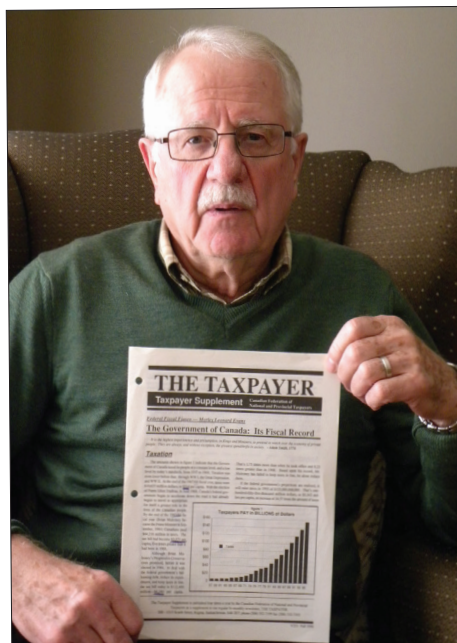
Dale & Irma Northcott – Melfort, SK

Larry & Sharon Samcoe – Medicine Hat, AB:

*Congratulations on your 25th anniversary!*

*We have kept all the issues of The Taxpayer since we started contributing to the CTF. The first issue which we have in storage is identified V123: Fall 1990. It is titled The Taxpayer Supplement. Our support of the CTF has been continuous to the present time.*

*We have been honored to be associated with the CTF over the years. Hopefully this organization will be around for another 25 years. The CTF has very little competition in holding our governments accountable to the taxpayers.*





# Thank You

Jerome & Garnet Nunweiler (Nunweiler Acres Ltd.) – Eaton, SK

Allan & Michelle Nunweiler (ADN Farms) – Eaton, SK

Arnold & Myrna O'Driscoll (O'Driscoll Ranches Ltd.) – Cando, SK

Michael & Kimberly O'Driscoll – Cando, SK

Brendan & Beverly O'Driscoll – Cando, SK

Kevin & Louise O'Driscoll – Cando, SK

Thomas A. O'Driscoll – Cando, SK

Lloyd O'Reilly – Alliance, AB

Glen Ochs (Ochs Chev/Olds Ltd.) – Melville, SK

Gary & Karen Ollen (Can-Do Auto & Lube (1984) Ltd.) – Lloydminster, AB

Lyle & Sharon Olson – Edam, SK:

*I believe the work you guys do is benefiting this good country we live in! We can whine and snivel about our government or we can keep help make them accountable by supporting CTF. Keep up the good work!*

Erik Olson – Cochin, SK

Teresa Ormberg – Rimbey, AB

Doug M. & Myrtle Osmond – Bowden, AB

Guy & Cathy Oswell – Lloydminster, SK

Martin & Lorraine Otteson – Neilburg, SK

Terry & Gloria Ovens – Kipling, SK

Kelly Overbo (Fay) (Overbo Contracting Ltd.) – Kinsella, AB

Brad Palko (The Cedar Shop Building Material) – Calgary, AB

Raymond & Brenda Pare (Raynda Seeds Ltd.) – Wainwright, AB

Maurice & Rita Pare – Wainwright, AB

Jerry Parker (JP Metal Manufacturing Inc.) – Calgary, AB

Robert & Jean Parker (Parker Farms Ltd.) – Biggar, SK

Ron Parson (Parson Farms Ltd.) – Elrose, SK

Glenn Pastl (Pastl Seed Farm Inc) – Watson, SK

Don & Charlotte Payak (Plainsview Seeds Inc.) – Weyburn, SK

Dave & Grace Pearson – Kinistino, SK

Murray & Bev Peel – Miniota, MB

Otto Penner – Winnipeg, MB

Brian Payne (Brother's Specialized Coating Systems) – Edmonton, AB



Reg Stacey (R.H. Stacey Construction) – Pierceland, SK



Stewart Perkins – Lloydminster, SK

Heather & Leigh Peters (L.J. Peters Warehouses Ltd.) – Calgary, AB

Alf & Edna Peterson – Salmon Arm, BC

Raymond & Karen Peterson – Climax, SK

Bruce & Sandra Petovello – Cut Knife, SK

Wes & Donna Petracek – Esterhazy, SK

Zygmund & Muriel Piebiak (Foothills Electric Ltd.) – Calgary, AB

Kevin Pike (Keranda Ind. Supply Ltd.) – Maidstone, SK

Gord Pippus (ATR Automatic Transmission Rebuilders) – Lethbridge, AB

Dorothy Piquard – Eastend, SK

Ken Plews (Plews Enterprises Ltd.) – Carnduff, SK

Jeff & Gina Plomp (Break-Away Trucking Inc.) – Warburg, AB

Glenn Pollard – Lloydminster, SK

Selby Porter (Ensign Energy) – Calgary, AB

Martin & Bonnie Pratchler – Govan, SK:

*Congratulations on your 25th anniversary*

Clair & Eva Ptolemy – Dinsmore, SK

Roly Purcell (Purcell Brothers) – Hudson Bay, SK

Sheila Purves – Vermilion, AB

Victor Pushee – Mayfair, SK

Greg & Sharon Putnam – Watson, SK:

*If you have ever said that "somebody should do something," this is a way.*

Charlie Rajotte (Greenbelt Farms) – Wainwright, AB

John Rauch – Delia, AB

Byron & Della Reed (Reeds Valley Farm Ltd.) – Maidstone, SK

Don Regier – Rosthern & Laird, SK

Barry & Doreen Reid – Tisdale, SK

Duane Reimer (Reimer Construction Ltd.) – Coleman, AB

Karl & Margaret Reinhardt (Crooked Creek Farms Ltd.) – Rockyford, AB

Philip & Vesta Renneberg – Cudworth, SK

Douglas & Diane Rhodes (Highfield Farms Ltd.) – Moose Jaw, SK

Ralph & Gary Richards – Olds, AB

Gary & Jean Rice – Tisdale, SK

# Thank You

Bob Richards (Centrifuges Unlimited Inc.)  
– Calgary, AB

Don Richardson (Richardson Lighting  
Ltd.) – Regina, SK

Trevor & Darlene Ridalls – Fiske, SK

Scott Robertson (Robertson Trading Ltd.)  
– La Ronge, SK

Gary & Joan Robinson – Mildred, SK

Steve Roelfsema & Dwayne Leslie (East  
Wey Auto Body) – Weyburn, SK

Wally Rommens (Wally Rommens Farms)  
– Duchess, AB

Daniel & Sylvia Rosner – Watson, SK

Chris & Sharon Rottier  
(Praise Farms Ltd.) –  
Westlock, AB

Irene Rowand – Virden, MB

Paul Ruecker – Lemberg,  
SK

Keith & Darlene Rumohr –  
Major, SK

Palmer & Mary Ruten –  
Spalding, SK

Doug & Michele Rutley  
(Donell Acres) –  
Chilliwack, BC

Larry & Adeline Ryland –  
Eston, SK

Keith & Mary Sache  
(Sache Farms Ltd.) –  
Rosedale, BC

Peter Sanderson – Oakville, ON

Doug & Karen Sarabin – Meath Park, SK

Roy & Ruby Sayers (Sayers Ranch Ltd.)  
– Mankota, SK

Paul Sayers (Viewpoint Photographic  
Design) – North Battleford, SK

Eugene & Rosanne Schemenauer – Lake  
Lenore, SK

Greg & Lorne Schentag (Tag's Plumbing  
& Heating Ltd.) – Esterhazy, SK

Al Scherbarth (Al Scherbarth Professional  
Corp.) – Edmonton, AB

Richard Scherer – Blackie, AB

Charles & Claire Schira – Spiritwood, SK

John Schlosser – Vanscoy, SK

Anton (Tony) & Sally Schmidt – North  
Battleford, SK

Lawrence & Helen Schmidt – Consul, SK

Brian & Carmele Schneider (Bee's  
Wellsite) – Rimbey, AB

Jerry & Sharon Schock – Burstall, SK

Lorne & Linda Scholer – Luseland, SK

Lorna Schreiner – Humboldt, SK

Ken Schultz (Wholesale Transmission) –  
Melville, SK

Leo & Marie Schwebuis – Landis, SK

Mark & Paul Selinger (Tel-Rite Services  
Ltd.) – Swift Current, SK

George Sexty – Westlock, AB

Ken & Merle Shaw – Shaunavon, SK

Bill Sheehan – Carstairs, AB

Gordon & Norma Sherman (Sherman's  
Welding) – Rabbit Lake, SK

Margaret Shier – Oxbow, SK

Vince Shinbine (Progress Glass Ltd.) –  
Spruce Grove, AB

Alan & Doreen Short – Medstead, SK

Orest & Helen Shular – Wynyard, SK

Jeff Siegel (Stony Vacuum & Repair  
Shop) – Stony Plain, AB

Harold & Norma Sim –  
Frenchman Butte, SK

Vernon & Marlene Simpson –  
Sedgewick, AB

Dorothy Simpson – Boissevain, MB

Will Slingerland (Will's Dairy Ltd.) –  
Lethbridge, AB

Frank & Marg Smith (Evergreen  
Stock Farm Ltd.) – Turtleford, SK

Don Smith (Happy Valley Farms  
Ltd.) – Consul, SK

Michelle Smith (Highway 10  
Restaurant & C-Store) – Melville, SK

Ken & Mary Dawn Smith (Ken Smith  
Corral Cleaners) – High River, AB

Ryan Smith (Smith Building  
Development Ltd.) – Oxbow, SK

Ron Smith (Smith Seeds) – Limerick, SK

Orville & Ruth Smith – Kyle, SK

Lloyd & Diane Smith – Red Deer, AB

Trent & Diane Smith – Major, SK

Doug & Diann Smith – Lashburn, SK

Thomas & Dallas Smith – Carievale, SK

Larry Smyth – Manor, SK

Ernest & Eileen Snider – Thorsby, AB

David & Darlene Snook – Wishart, SK

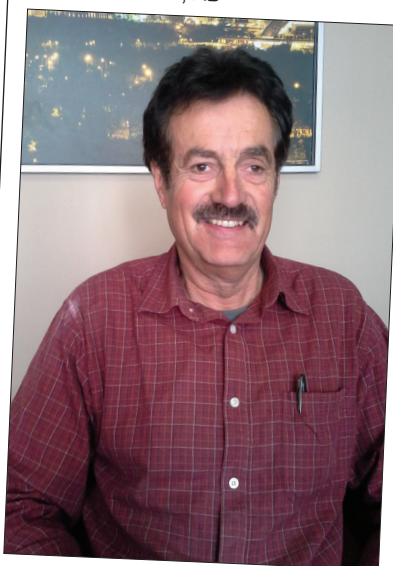
Gordon L. & Mona Snyder – Crossfield,  
AB

Russell & Liz Souch – Binscarth, MB

Keith Robin (Grove Collision Repairs Ltd.) – Spruce  
Grove, AB



Alfred Weimann (Alf's Roofing Ltd.) –  
Sherwood Park, AB





# Thank You

Robert & Ronda Stamm – Glenavon, SK

Barry Steiner (Windshield Wizard) – Saskatoon, SK

Gary & Joy Steinke (Steinke Farm Ltd.) – Estevan, SK

Jim Stevenson (Eagle Developers of Canada) – Calgary, AB

Robert & Sheila Stevenson – Saskatoon, SK

Brad & Beanna Stewart (Stewart Steel Inc.) – Weyburn, SK

Tony & Claire Stitsen (Stitsen Family Dairy Farm Inc.) – Busby, AB

Gale S. Stitt – Calgary, AB

Peter & Anita Storey – Davidson, SK

Lyle & Jean Straker – Yorkton, SK

David & Gaylene Stringer (Stringer Ranch Ltd.) – Lloydminster, SK

Bert Stueck – Abernethy, SK

Stan & Janet Stusrud – Eaton, SK

V. Glenn Sundstrom – Calgary, AB

Walter, Susan & Stanley Supruniuk – St. Albert, AB

Mark Switzer (Global Muffler & Shock Absorber Ltd) – Lethbridge, AB

Beni & Betty Szakacs – Kipling, SK

John & Debbie Tap (Rolleyview Farms) – Chilliwack, BC

Arthur & Dianne Taubert – Hussar, AB

John Tesch (Tesch Farms) – Mervin, SK

John Therres – Nipawin, SK

Brent Thiessen (Drayton Valley Auto Parts Ltd.) – Drayton Valley, AB

Tim Thoen (Thoens Service Ltd.) – Wynyard, SK

Maurice & LeAnn Thom – Edam, SK

Duane & Leslie Glimsdale – Claresholm, AB:

*Thanks for all the hard work the Taxpayers Federation has done over the years and I anticipate the continued commitment the Taxpayers Federation have to look after our hard earned tax dollars.*



Aron Klassen (Tunes Music & Audio) – Lloydminster, AB:

*The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is the juggernaut representative of Canadian financial interests for persons and businesses in a very small pool. I am grateful for their hard work and dedication to helping make this nation accountable to its people and furthering the cause of the every man. Keep up the good work and thank you for 25 years!*



Michael Thomas (Thomas Trenching Services Ltd.) – Barrhead, AB:

*Congratulations on 25 years of helping Canadians!*

Charles Thompson – Delia, AB

Del & Leone Thunberg – Regina, SK

Lorne & Judy Tilson – Moose Jaw, SK

Robert & Brenda Tomlinson – Swift Current, SK

Jeff Tosczak (Great Plains Ford Sales Limited – Weyburn, SK

John & Lana Tosczak (Tozak Land & Cattle Co. – Tribune, SK

Heather Truman (Sew Creative & Interiors) – Moosomin, SK

John Tyson – Indian Head, SK

Gerald & Lynda Udall – Maple Creek, SK

Edwin & Adele Ulmer – Stony Plain, AB

Wayne & Doreen Unrau (Unrau's Contracting) – Pierceland, SK

Edward Urbanowski – Glaslyn, SK

Gerrit & Jan Vaandrager (Lavender Farms Ltd.) – Abbotsford, BC

George & Cheryl Van Eerden – La Glace, AB

Craig Van Stryland – Clive, AB

Harry & Hilda Van Stryland – Clive, AB

Richard & Desiree Vandenhoven (Vandenhoven Dairies Ltd.) – Rimbey, AB

Gerald & Marlene VanDeSype – Radville, SK

Denis G. Vandoorne – Deloraine, MB

Sid & Winny Veenbaas – Abbotsford, BC

Richard & Sandra Voisin – Mossbank, SK

Rick & Gail Volek – Tilley, AB:

*We cannot believe it has been 25 years. We are proud to support the work you have undertaken. Your hard work and dedication to make government more accountable has*

# Thank You

*been very successful and we look forward to what the next 25 years will bring.*

Jean Waddington – Meadow Lake, SK

Dave & Debbie Walker (Walker Land & Farming Ltd.) – Saskatoon, SK

John & Gwen Walker – Tisdale, SK

Arlene M. Walker – Meota, SK

Paul Walter (Big Rose Colony) – Biggar, SK

Phil & Sheila Wandler – Denzil, SK

Garry & Monica Wappel – North Battleford, SK

W.B. (Bryce) Warren – Moose Jaw, SK

George Warren – Delburne, AB

Ron & Lynn Watson – Gladstone, MB

Richard & Anne Watson – Stony Plain, AB

Terry Watt – Unity, SK

Curtis & Trish Webber (Webber Farms) – Stony Plain, AB

Kurt & Gloria Weber – Quill Lake, SK

Lloyd & Luella Werle – Langenburg, SK

Ron Wesolowski (Prince Albert Insurance Ltd.) – Prince Albert, SK

Gerald Widenmaier – Alameda, SK

John Wiebe (Wiebe Contracting Ltd.) – Swift Current, SK

George & Erna Wiebe – Glenbush, SK

Ron Wilkinson – Virden, MB

Herb & Yvonne Wilson – Lashburn, SK

Gerald & Linda Wilson – Hamiota, MB

David & Bev Wilson – Springside, SK

Terry & Margery Winter (Winter Ranching) – Gull Lake, SK

Drs. Jim, Collin & Robert Lawrence, Tannis Jackson & Reagan Cheshire (Westlock Veterinary Center) – Westlock, AB



Donal & Gloria Wolff (Lupine Ent. Ltd.) – Sherwood Park, AB:

*We never dreamt when we joined the Association of Saskatchewan Taxpayers in 1989 that it would become a national organization and such an influential one at that. Thanks to all hard work of our directors, appreciation of the supporters and dedication of the volunteers on the board. Thank you to all who have made a difference.*



Don & Betty Wittig (Wittig Farms Ltd.) – Watson, SK

Robert & Darlene Wold (Robert Wold Farms Ltd) – Alliance, AB

Dwayne & Anita Wolfe (Silver Wolfe Farms Ltd.) – Edam, SK

Pak Wong (Greenhead Motel & Restaurant Ltd.) – Provost, AB

Thornton Woodyard – Battleford, SK

Lyle Wunderlich (Alpine Drywall (Calgary) Ltd) – Calgary, AB

Raymond & Donna Wyatt – Canwood, SK

Doreen Wylie (Leslie's Drug Store Ltd.) – Biggar, SK

Brenda & Darrell Yakimowski – Weyburn, SK

James Yanitski – Ardrossan, AB

Robyn Young (Lundgren & Young Insurance Ltd) – Calgary, AB

Ethel Zurevell – North Battleford, SK:

*Congratulations to The Taxpayer! Can't imagine being on your list for 25 years but time flies by so quickly. When I first contributed I was a tax payer in the RM of Battle River where I lived for 37 yrs. Now am a city girl. Always enjoyed talking to the reps who came out and the magazine made me happy, sad and sometimes upset. Regardless, I think it is an awesome publication, keep up the good work.*

Battleford Bait And Tackle – Battleford, SK

Calgary Fasteners Tools Ltd. – Calgary, AB

Century Electric (1985) Ltd. – Calgary, AB

CTS Industries Ltd. – Calgary, AB

Elmco Construction – Salmon Arm, BC

Marvin & Shirley Kraatz & Dan Klufas (Federal Metals Inc.) – Calgary, AB

Linda Brehmer, Sandy VonTetering, Doug & Keith Houston (Houston Trucking Ltd.) – Calgary, AB

Sabo Bros. Enterprises Ltd. – Edmonton, AB

Turple Bros Ltd – Red Deer, AB



## FIGHTERS

**"The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is shrill, obnoxious and relentless. It panders to the angry, the cynical and the embittered. It treats free-market capitalism as religion and taxation as the great Satan."**

Scott McKeen – then-Edmonton Journal columnist, now Edmonton city councillor (March 2010)



by Scott  
Hennig  
VP Communications

**T**here's little doubt that some bleeding-heart journalists and politicians don't like how we tell it like it is. If a politician is filling his pockets with taxpayer

cash, you can always count on the Canadian Taxpayers Federation to call him out in the media, award him a golden sow Teddy Award or maybe even blow up a three-storey inflatable version of him on the banks of the Ottawa River.

But early in our existence, the CTF recognized that we can't just be "negative Nellies." When politicians, bureaucrats or just regular Canadians step up and show an extraordinary commitment to the cause of taxpayer emancipation, they too should be lauded. And thus the TaxFighter Award was born.

The first recipient of the CTF's TaxFighter Award was Paul Pagnuelo in 1997. Paul was the CTF's first volunteer communications director in Ontario. During the day Paul was an executive at the Bank of Montreal and after work he moon-light-

ed as the CTF's main man around Queen's Park. Often putting in 70-hour weeks, Paul planted the CTF flag in Ontario long before we had the funds to open an office.

"Paul was the ideal choice to be the first TaxFighter Award recipient," recalled CTF President Troy Lanigan. "He gave up his evenings and cashed in his vacations for many years to organize rallies, do media interviews and give a voice to taxpayers in Ontario in those early days. It was unbelievable what he did."

In the 18 years since Paul received the TaxFighter, nearly 20 others have been added to the TaxFighter Honour Roll. Some have been former politicians, some have been journalists, some have dedicated their time and their careers to taxpayer advocacy and others are just regular folks who have gone the extra mile.

Former Ontario premier Mike

Harris was the first politician to receive the award in 2000. Another one didn't get it until 2011 when we awarded it to former Alberta premier Ralph Klein and his first finance minister, Jim Dinning. A trio of former politicians got their TaxFighter Awards in 2013 when we presented them to Preston Manning, Lee Morrison and Werner Schmidt – the only three former Reform MPs who kept their word and didn't accept the gold-plated MP pension.

Former talk radio host Dave Rutherford was the first member of the fourth estate to be declared a TaxFighter in 1999. Dave rode Alberta's airwaves for 21 years, hosting his own talk radio show until 2013. Former *Toronto Sun* columnist and business editor Linda Leatherdale was the next member of the media to receive the TaxFighter in 2005. Linda was instrumental in organizing the Ontario Tax Alert rallies prior to the 1995 budget. Sun columnists Tom Broadbeck and Lorne Gunter joined the TaxFighter gang in 2007.

People instrumental in the creation and success of the CTF have also been honoured with a TaxFight-



Jason Kenney (R) presenting the CTF's first TaxFighter award to Paul Pagnuelo in 1997



er Award. One of the CTF's founders and original board members, Bob Matheson, was awarded the TaxFighter in 1998. Former BC government bureaucrat and founding board member of the BC wing of the CTF, Mel H. Smith, was awarded the TaxFighter posthumously in 2001. Long-time CTF board chair Andy Crooks received the award in 2007. And Ken Azzopardi, current CTF board member and former CTF CEO, was presented the award following his retirement in 2009.

The first non-Canadian recipient of the TaxFighter Award was Bjorn Tarras Wahlberg of Sweden in 2014. Bjorn was the CEO of the Swedish Taxpayers Association from 1985 to 2000 and then served as the secretary general of the World Taxpayers Associations from 2000 to 2014.

Michael Walker, founder of the Fraser Institute, was presented with the TaxFighter award in 2011. Kevin Page, the first parliamentary budget officer in Ottawa, was awarded the TaxFighter in 2013.

And last, but not least, the name that most Canadians will not know. Patricia Ehli of Edmonton was awarded the TaxFighter Award in 2007. Patricia is not a politician, a journalist or the

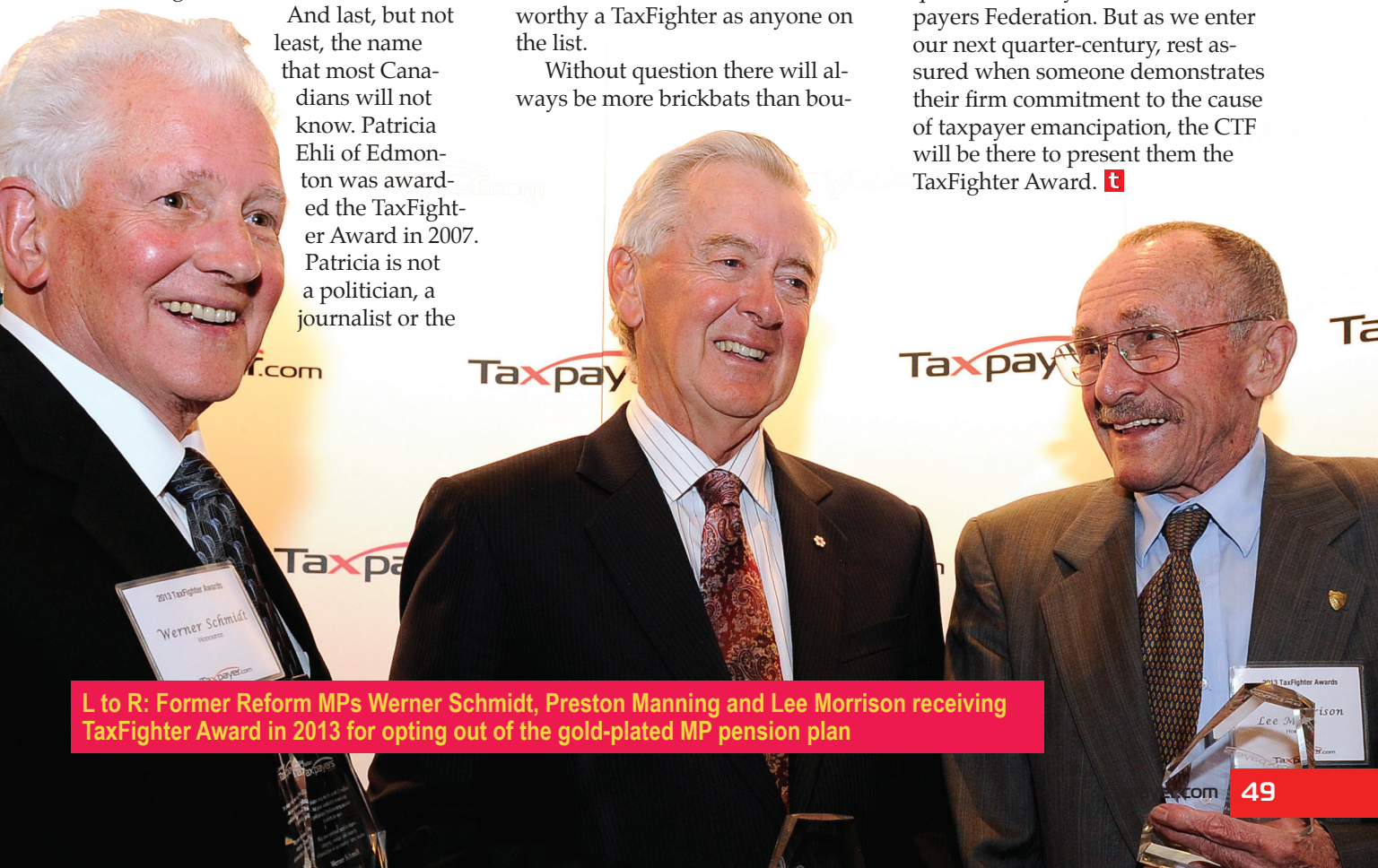
founder of a taxpayers organization. Patricia is a woman who is sick and tired of politicians filling their pockets while jacking taxes on seniors like her. In 2006, Patricia spent day after day touring a CTF petition around local shopping malls, collecting thousands of signatures demanding Edmonton city councilors reverse their 30% pay hike. Since then she has been a regular at city council, especially during budget proceedings, demanding council consider ability to pay when setting their property tax hikes. Patricia showed that one regular citizen can make a difference and have her voice heard and for that she's as worthy a TaxFighter as anyone on the list.

Without question there will always be more brickbats than bou-

quets thrown by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. But as we enter our next quarter-century, rest assured when someone demonstrates their firm commitment to the cause of taxpayer emancipation, the CTF will be there to present them the TaxFighter Award. **t**



**Scott Hennig (R) presenting the CTF's TaxFighter award to Patricia Ehli in 2007**



**L to R: Former Reform MPs Werner Schmidt, Preston Manning and Lee Morrison receiving TaxFighter Award in 2013 for opting out of the gold-plated MP pension plan**



# CTF VICTORIES

in Canada's democratic laboratory



by Jordan Bateman  
BC Director

**B**ritish Columbia has a well-deserved reputation for being the nation's "left coast" and for BC standing for "Bring Cash."

Despite those ideological implications,

BC has seen its share of Canadian Taxpayers Federation public policy victories over the past 25 years. In fact, BC's unique brand of populism has created a democratic environment in which politicians can be recalled, ministerial pay is cut during deficit budgets, referenda campaigns can be initiated by the public, and votes can be held on changing the way we elect MLAs – all things the CTF helped seed.

BC's populist bent made it the perfect spot to launch the CTF's 1995 Tax Revolt tour. More than 800 people attended the first event in Kelowna, calling for a balanced federal budget, reduced spending, and lower taxes. In Vancou-

ver, 1,200 people came out, and the tour grew as it moved across the country.

In 1996, Elections BC claimed the CTF broke a gag law forbidding free speech during campaigns after a CTF radio ad endorsing balanced budget legislation was ruled illegal because balanced budgets appeared in a political party's platform.

Elections BC pounced. The agency wanted the criminal justice branch to prosecute the CTF; we pushed back, threatening our own lawsuit against Elections BC. In the end, Elections BC left us alone, although the gag law stayed on the books in various forms until 2012 when the BC Court of Appeals ruled it unconstitutional.

Balanced budget legislation, a longtime CTF effort, came to BC thanks to premier Gordon Campbell, who added a financial penalty for cabinet ministers who did not meet fiscal goals – a 10% pay cut. During the deficit budgets of 2009-2012, cabinet ministers were indeed docked pay.

The success of the Interest-ed Taxpayers' Action Committee in West Vancouver prompted the CTF to co-author a ratepayers' association template for other citizen groups to use. This has been used as a baseline for dozens of groups across BC.

In 2005, the CTF organized a class action lawsuit after teachers and health workers held an ille-

Elections BC threatened to sue the CTF because it wanted to participate in the democratic process. **RIGHT:** Then BC Director Troy Lanigan in front of the Elections BC office



## 550 parents want to join suit against union

**CLASS ACTION:**  
They're trying to  
recover daycare and  
other extra costs

BY ELAINE O'CONNOR  
STAFF REPORTER

More than 550 parents want to  
join the Canadian Taxpayers Fed-

teachers, but believes they have  
to obey the law.

"They have to understand that  
if they are going to strike, they bet-

ter have a plan to protect and help  
these kids," said the Surrey mom.  
She said she's paid hundreds of  
dollars in school fees so her 17-

But she's also concerned Vinnie,  
who is in Grade 12, won't pass his  
provincial English exam, because  
he has learning difficulties.

"As it is, my son needs lots of  
assistance to understand," she  
says. "He's very stressed out  
because he wants to graduate."

Richmond parent Marcella Gor-

wasn't her chief concern.

"My biggest issue is the fact that  
[my daughter] is not in school.  
She's not getting anything right  
now," Gordon said.

The CTF began signing up par-

ents for the suit Tuesday. Its B.C.  
director, Sara MacIntyre, said the  
suit was launched owing to pres-

gal strike. The better-funded unions  
eventually wore the suits down, but  
the Hospital Employees Union did  
have to cut proponents a \$3,755.98  
cheque to help cover legal fees.

In 2000, the CTF had its first  
dustup with TransLink – collect-  
ing more than 20,000 signatures on  
a petition against a proposed ve-  
hicle levy. TransLink wanted \$75  
per car per year to fund its opera-  
tions; with several other groups,  
we fought back, and NDP premier  
Ujjal Dosanjh killed the idea.

Fifteen years later, the CTF  
would lead another campaign  
against TransLink taxes, this time  
acting as the NO side in a region-  
al plebiscite on giving TransLink a  
0.5% sales tax.

With the first poll showing the  
pro-tax side win-  
ning 52% to 39%,  
we went to work,  
making the case  
that TransLink is  
too wasteful to be  
trusted with more  
of our money. On  
the day voting  
opened, the CTF-  
led NO campaign  
had managed to  
flip the polls, hold-  
ing a 61% to 27%  
lead. At press time,  
the votes were be-  
ing counted; watch  
for an update in the  
next *The Taxpayer*.

Two other re-  
cent victories stand  
out. As *Vancou-*  
*ver Sun* columnist  
Vaughn Palmer not-  
ed, "The CTF was  
on the cost-cutters'

equivalent of a mission  
from God" to get rid of the prov-  
ince's Pacific Carbon Trust, which  
forced government agencies – in-  
cluding schools and hospitals – to  
purchase carbon credits. Our work,  
along with independent MLA Bob  
Simpson, finally got the program  
scrapped.

“In 2005, the CTF organized  
a class action lawsuit after  
teachers and health workers  
held an illegal strike.”

And, thanks to the tireless advo-  
cacy of the CTF and the reporting  
of Rob Shaw, taxpayers can now log  
on to a government website and see  
how MLAs spend every nickel of  
their expense accounts. This victory  
took years, but was a vital step for  
transparency. **t**

## Where are they now?



**Robin Richardson** (National Research Director; 1992-93) After his time at the CTF, Robin continued his ground-breaking debt research with the Fraser Institute. Following that he set up his own financial planning business in Victoria which he continues to run today.



**Robert Pauliszyn** (BC research; 1994-1998) After his work at the CTF, Robert served as chief of staff to BC's finance minister. Since then, he has served as communications director to numerous ministers in various portfolios. His current role is to help manage and keep public sector bargaining and executive compensation in line for the BC government.



**Maureen Bader** (BC; 2007-2010): After leaving the CTF Maureen has moved on to serve in a communications role at the Wyoming Liberty Group.



**Sara MacIntyre** (BC; 2004-2007): After her CTF work, she engaged in communications work for Prime Minister Stephen Harper and then BC Premier Christy Clark. She went on to work for *Sun News Network* and continues to be an occasional guest host on *NewsTalk 1010* in Toronto. She currently does communications consulting and yoga instruction.



**Mark Milke** (Alberta, BC; 1997-2002): After leaving the CTF, Mark obtained his PhD in international relations and political philosophy from the University of Calgary in 2008 and has since served as a research director and a senior fellow, most recently with the Fraser Institute. His work has been published in Canada, the United States and Europe.







by **Scott Hennig**  
VP Communications

Over our 25 years, we've achieved some of our biggest victories in Alberta. From flat taxes and balanced budgets to important accountability reforms, the CTF has been there pushing for the Alberta government to be a leader for the rest of Canada.

## Politicians' perks and pay

In 1992, Premier Ralph Klein did not take kindly to young Jason Kenney making the gold-plated MLA pension plan an issue. He responded by claiming that the CTF was a front for the Liberal Party. Kenney went to the Alberta legislature to scrum with the media about Klein's claims. The scrum was interrupted by Klein and the two went head-to-head for the cameras.

Kenney's cool demeanour and valid criticisms won the debate.

Within days, Klein marched into his caucus and informed them that their pensions were gone, not just effective immediately, but retroactive to 1989.

In 2001, shortly after the election, MLAs decided to gold-plate the MLA transition allowance. Alberta Director John Carpay immediately launched an offensive to repeal the hikes.

Following the 2008 secret MLA pay hikes that were discovered by the next Alberta Director Scott Hennig, the transition allowances became platinum-plated. Former Speaker Ken Kowalski walked away with a \$1.2 million cheque. Former Premier Ed Stelmach took home a \$1 million going-away present.

But it wasn't until the CTF gave its infamous Teddy Waste award to the 21 Alberta MLAs who had been paid \$1,000 a month for sitting on a committee that hadn't met in 39 months – the 'no-meet committee' – did we start to get action on MLA pay and transition allowances.

The issue became the focus of the start of the 2012 election and Premier Redford declared that every one of her MLAs running for re-election would pay back all of the ill-gotten 'no meet committee' pay and that transition allowances were eliminated for anyone elected in 2012 or later.

## Tax cuts

One of the largest victories achieved by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation was the implementation of Alber-

# From Resolution One to 25 Years of Fighting for Taxpayers

ta's 10% flat income tax.

In 1998, Alberta Treasurer Stockwell Day launched an income tax review. As luck would have it, former Association of Alberta Taxpayers advisory board member and then-Alberta MLA, Ron Hierath, was appointed to serve on the committee.

Our Alberta Director Mark Milke authored a report calling for the province to introduce a flat tax with a generous basic personal exemption. While the CTF pushed the idea in public, Hierath pushed the idea within the government, and the result was exactly what the CTF sought. Alberta's 10% flat income tax came into force in 2001. The 2015 Prentice budget ended the flat tax's 14 year reign and it will be obliterated further with the NDP's fall budget.

The Klein government also enacted the *Taxpayer Protection Act* that requires any sales tax to be approved by a referendum. This law is still in place today and Alberta is the only province with no PST.

Another significant tax reduction won by the CTF was the elimination of Alberta's health care premium in 2008. The campaign to eliminate the health premium was launched

by Carpay in 2003 following the Klein government's increase of the tax. The fight was then taken over by Hennig in 2005 who delivered thousands of petitions demanding the repeal of the tax. Premier Stelmach dropped the tax in the 2008 budget.

## Balanced budgets and debt elimination

While the CTF fought for and won balanced budget laws across all of western and central Canada in the 1990s, the success in Alberta was the most pronounced. Not only did the Klein government agree with the CTF calls for budget balanced laws, they enacted both a balanced budget law and debt repayment law. The result was 14



In 2008, then Alberta Director Mark Milke pushed his health care premium repeal through the government's decision.

straight years of balanced budgets (1994-2008). Alberta repaid more than \$22 billion in debt and became debt free in 2005. Alberta began racking up debt again in 2012 and began gutting its balanced budget laws in 2009.

## Corporate welfare – no more boondoggles law

Early in the CTF's history, exposing and ridiculing corporate welfare boondoggles were some of the first stories that earned us media attention. In 1995 the government announced a major loss of taxpayer cash on a government owned waste treatment plant.

The next day Kenney launched a No More Boondoggles campaign, complete with draft legislation prohibiting future corporate welfare deals. Klein announced that he would be working with the CTF to move legislation forward. In 1996, the *Business Financial Assistance Limita-*

*tion Act* was passed by the Alberta legislature.

## Transparency

Early in our tenure, the CTF campaigned successfully for freedom-of-information legislation. The Klein government agreed and passed legislation in 1994.

Expense scandals (some dug up by the CTF) led to the government implementing the CTF's recommendation for an online expense disclosure website (including receipts) in 2012. Then-Alberta Director Derek Fildebrandt led a successful campaign in 2013 to create a sunshine list of government salaries over \$100,000.

Undoubtedly, some of the victories won in Alberta over the past 25 years have been undone (balanced budgets, debt elimination and the flat tax). We are reminded that no public policy victory is forever, no defeat everlasting. Our new Alberta Director Paige MacPherson is certainly up to the task and ready to start us on our second quarter century of fighting for taxpayers in Alberta. **t**



Director Scott Hennig burns premium bill celebrating the to scrap the tax after the CTF's campaign to end it.

## Where are they now?



**James Forrest** (Alberta; 1993-1997) James left in 1997 to join the Alberta government. He has progressed through the finance ministry now to the role of executive director of revenue and reporting.



**Mitch Gray** (Alberta; 1995-1997, and 1999) Since leaving the CTF, Mitch has helped manage the family liquor store business in Edmonton.



**John Carpay** (Alberta; 2001-2009) Since leaving the CTF, John has been able to focus on his legal talents, first as the executive director of the Canadian Constitution Foundation and then as president of the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms, which he founded in 2010.



**Derek Fildebrandt** (federal research, Alberta; 2009-2014) Derek was elected to the Alberta legislature in 2015 as the finance critic and MLA for the riding of Strathmore-Brooks.



# 25 It all started in Saskatchewan! YEARS AGO!



by Todd MacKay  
Prairie Director

**K**evin Avram, Norm Wallace and a few others saw hands out everywhere, grasping for government funding, and nobody on the other side helping taxpayers hold onto their hard-earned money. That need became a seed that they planted in Saskatchewan and in 1990 it became the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

Its simple creation is an accomplishment, but the CTF has done more than survive in Saskatchewan. It has fundamentally changed the province and the country.

There were early wins. Before the CTF entered the arena, MLAs collected severance payments when they left the legislature whether they did so voluntarily or were encouraged to get out by voters. The CTF watchdog was only a year old when the Saskatchewan NDP ended severance payments for MLAs in 1991.

Cash wasn't the only thing MLAs walked away with in those days. Back then there was a so-called 'clean office' policy. When MLAs left office, they got to take the office furniture and equipment with them. Of course, taxpayers had purchased those things for MLAs to use while serving taxpayers. Instead, MLAs were helping themselves on the way out the door. The CTF barked and MLAs jumped. By 1992, the clean-office policy was gone and office furniture and equipment remained taxpayer property.

Some changes took a little longer. In 1991, 80% of Saskatchewan voters demanded balanced-budget legislation to make sure the province couldn't spend more money than

it collected. It took a while, but the CTF kept pushing. And in 1995 the Saskatchewan government passed the *Balanced Budget Act* that requires the province to balance spending over four-year spans.

Some issues run back through the centuries. Many such issues plague aboriginal communities. And the CTF's slow and steady progress on many of those issues started in Saskatchewan.

It didn't start with white-collar auditors or ivory-tower academics. It started with brown envelopes, often sent by mothers and grandmothers on reserves. And they almost always contained documents showing that chiefs and councils were siphoning off taxpayers' money that was supposed to help struggling families.

Richard Truscott was the CTF's Saskatchewan director at the time.

"We used to get these brown envelopes on the doorstep," says

Truscott. "The more we spoke out about it in the media, the more brown envelopes we got."

Whistle-blowers weren't the only people Truscott heard from. Newspaper headlines alleged racism. There were also threats, including death threats.

Despite the opposition, the facts spoke for themselves and they spoke too loudly to be ignored. In 1999, it came to light that the Saulteaux Band near North Battleford had spent more than \$600,000 on travel. That travel bill was thousands of dollars higher than the travel expenses for the entire Saskatchewan cabinet. Band members themselves spoke up and decried the leadership's unwillingness to provide financial transparency.

The fight for accountability eventually moved east to Manitoba where it ulti-

**RIGHT:** Saskatchewan Director David MacLean petitioning the government to cut the education portion of property taxes. **BELOW:** CTF was actively involved in a successful plebiscite vote in 1991 to get the Saskatchewan government to pass balanced budget legislation. Craig Dockstader putting up lawn sign.



mately resulted in the *First Nations Financial Transparency Act* that requires chiefs and councils to disclose their salaries. That single piece of legislation is a towering accomplishment and its foundation is in Saskatchewan.

Even though the early wins on indigenous issues were small and few, Truscott remembers the difference they made.

"A lot of First Nations people really appreciated the work we did to give them a voice," he says. "They knew the chiefs were buying houses and cars with money that should have gone to better living conditions."

In the meantime, the CTF proved that good government can cross party lines.

Every year, the CTF met with

the hundreds of millions of dollars the province took from Saskatchewan drivers via fuel taxes.

The CTF hammered the issue with annual Gas Tax Honesty Days when it highlighted high and hidden fuel taxes as well as the fact that few of those tax dollars went back into the roads.

In 2006, the Saskatchewan government passed the *Fuel Tax Accountability Act* which requires every dollar of fuel tax collected from Saskatchewan drivers to go back into the province's transportation infrastructure. In 2015, nearly half a billion dollars in fuel taxes will go into

Saskatchewan roads.

Change kept coming with a change in government. Premier Brad Wall's government paid down billions in provincial debt, increased personal income tax exemptions, cut education property taxes and cut taxes for small businesses. All of these initiatives were CTF priorities.

That isn't to say the work is done. Today Saskatchewan's provincial debt is again increasing. Liquor sales remain ridiculously over-regulated by the province. And millions of tax dollars continue to be wasted on a failing government-owned bus company. **t**



the provincial finance minister to make budget recommendations.

In 2006, NDP Finance Minister Harry Van Mulligan announced that Saskatchewan corporate tax rates would fall from 17% to 12% by 2008. The NDP also dropped the provincial sales tax by two percentage points.

It wasn't just that taxes were going down; they were also going to their intended priorities. Saskatchewan's roads were showing the results of years of decay. Infuriatingly, this deterioration continued despite

## Where are they now?



**Ned Ismail** (Research-SK; 1993-1994): After the CTF Ned took a number of international assignments, including serving Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs in the Middle East, General Manager of an investment company, and Chief International Operations Officer of a US consultancy. He is currently a professor and program coordinator at the Business School at Humber College in Toronto.



**Moira Wright** (Saskatchewan; 1993-1997): Moira has since served in communications roles at Crown Life, Canada Life, Points International Inc., Hermes and Holt Renfrew where she is the divisional vice-president of public relations.



**Richard Truscott** (Saskatchewan; 1997-2002): Richard served in various capacities with CGA-Alberta, Venture Communications and the Canadian Public Relations Society. Since 2009, Richard has been with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and at present serves as vice-president, British Columbia and Alberta.



**David MacLean** (Saskatchewan; 2002-2007): After leaving the CTF, David worked for Epcor, an Edmonton-based utility company, and is currently vice-president, communications and policy, at the Alberta Enterprise Group.



**Lee Harding** (Saskatchewan; 2007-2010): Spent some time in Ottawa and Saskatchewan working for various MPs after leaving the CTF. Lee currently works in development and fundraising in Saskatchewan's CTF office.



# It has been a 25 year battle



by Todd MacKay  
Prairie Director

**M**anitoba's current deficit of \$422 million is just the most recent proof that the province is a target-rich environment for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. To say that there's work to be done in the keystone province is an understatement. But Manitoba has also provided the setting for some of the CTF's biggest victories.

Manitoba wasn't the first province to enact balanced-budget legislation, but it enacted the best balanced-budget legislation.

When Premier Gary Filmon floated the idea of balanced-budget legislation before the 1995 budget, the CTF's Manitoba director, Peter Holle, was ready with a comprehensive draft. He asked for a meeting with the premier's office.

"I said: 'here's your standard, folks,'" says Holle. "I thought they were receptive."

He had no idea just how receptive until he saw Manitoba's 1995 budget.

"To my great surprise, there it was," he says. "They took it word for word, almost."

Manitoba did more than mandate that spending not exceed revenues. It docked the pay of cabinet members responsible for deficits. And best of all, it required the province to hold a referendum before increasing taxes.

A string of balanced budgets followed, but the government began to slowly undermine it to allow increased spending. Ultimately the NDP government suspended the legislation, ran annual deficits and increased the provincial sales tax without holding the required referendum.

While the balanced budget legislation appears to be crushed, it has tainted those who opposed

it. The Manitoba NDP is internally divided over the decision to impose a tax hike without the mandated referendum.

The government has some of the lowest poll numbers in the country. And the assault on the balanced budget legislation will give voters a clear choice in the coming provincial election.

Another long-fought-for change has proved more durable. In 1999, Manitoba CTF director Victor Vrsnik started an enduring annual tradition: Gas Tax Honesty Day. Unlike sales taxes and income taxes, fuel taxes are largely hidden. Worse, fuel taxes intended for transportation infrastructure can be diverted to all kinds of other government projects. Vrsnik kicked off Gas Tax Honesty Day to let people know how much tax they're paying at the pump and pressure government to put the money



**TOP:** Phyllis Sutherland and CTF Prairie Director Colin Craig receive recognition from Prime Minister Stephen Harper for their contribution to the passing of the *First Nations Financial Transparency Act*. (L to R) Federal Director Gregory Thomas, Phyllis Sutherland, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Colin Craig. **BOTTOM:** One day after the CTF launched its "Puck Off" campaign in 2000 opposing NHL subsidies, the federal government caved.



back into the roads.

In 2004, that work paid off as the Manitoba government dedicated provincial fuel taxes to be used exclusively for transportation infrastructure. It went further than the provincial borders; the federal government now allocates half of its fuel tax to roads and other infrastructure.

While the CTF had worked on indigenous issues in many places at many times, its biggest breakthrough started in Manitoba in 2009.

That year, Phyllis Sutherland, from Peguis First Nation, sent a brown envelope to the three major political parties and the CTF. The political parties didn't touch it. The CTF dived in.

The documents showed the Peguis chief and council were making between \$170,000 and \$250,000 per year. Meanwhile, people in the community were struggling with poor living conditions. The CTF took the outrageous spending public.

"We did tons of media," says Colin Craig, who was the CTF's Prairie director at the time. "The media started asking how we would change things so we called for all of this information to be put on the Internet."

The call for transparency was met with scepticism. The government said it couldn't make the information public because a court decision wouldn't allow it. The CTF's counter was simple: change the legislation.

The struggle went on for years. More and more indigenous people challenged their leaders and sent brown envelopes to the CTF. The CTF brought searing scrutiny to numerous cases of financial abuse.

In 2011, the federal government passed the *First Nations Financial Transparency Act*, which requires chief and council to publish their salaries online. Prime Minister Stephen Harper invited Sutherland and Craig to meet with him in Ottawa where he personally thanked them for their work.

The new legislation began to

deliver results almost immediately. When the salaries were published in 2014, it became public that Ron Giesbrecht, a chief in British Columbia, cleared more than \$900,000. That's more than combined salaries of Prime Minister Harper and his American and British counterparts. Those on the reserve recognized that they would never have known how much their chief took in salary if it weren't for the legislation.

The work continues. Manitoba's balanced budget legislation is in tatters and needs to be restored. Fuel taxes are being reinvested in roads, but they remain hidden and need to be brought out into the open. And now that financial abuses on First Nations are being made public they need to be addressed. **t**

## Where are they now?



**Peter Holle** (Manitoba; 1993-1995): Peter served as the first director of the Manitoba office of the CTF. He shortly thereafter founded the Frontier Centre for Public Policy, a Prairie-focused public policy think tank. He continues to serve as the president.



**Brian Kelcey** (Manitoba, Ontario; 1996-1999): After leaving the CTF, Brian has been a senior political adviser to the Ontario government, an instructor in city politics, campaign manager and is presently a public policy consultant.



**Victor Vrsnik** (Manitoba, BC; 1996-2003) He has since been a senior consultant for National Public Relations, a communications officer for the Smart Tax Alliance and then the Coalition of BC Business, a principal at Spire Public Relations and is currently government affairs manager for 7-Eleven Canada.



**Adrienne Batra** (Manitoba; 2001-2008): Since leaving the CTF, Adrienne was press secretary for one year for Toronto mayor Rob Ford; she continued her journalism career at *Sun News* and was also comment editor at the *Toronto Sun* where she was recently named editor-in-chief.



**Colin Craig** (Manitoba, Saskatchewan; 2007-2015): Colin first served as the Manitoba Director, but added Saskatchewan (Prairie Director) to his list of duties in 2009. Colin has since moved to Calgary and has joined the Manning Centre for Building Democracy as director of strategic communications.





# History of CTF in Ontario



by Christine Van Geyn  
Ontario Director

Canada's most populous province has had a Canadian Taxpayers Federation presence since 1993, when Paul Pagnuelo agreed to work as the volunteer Ontario spokesperson.

Those were the days of Bob Rae, who raised taxes on every income bracket, more than doubled the provincial debt, ran deficits in every budget and was the cause of two credit downgrades.

Paul had a full-time job and a young family, but out of a small office in Ajax he was able to stare down a premier who was leading the province over a fiscal cliff. Paul helped organize "No More Tax" rallies across the province, which were fuelled by grassroots frustration. Hardworking Ontario families were paying the price for the premier's mismanagement and anger in the province had reached a boiling point.

There were dozens of No More Tax rallies across Canada, including a 5,000-person rally in Pickering in the midst of an ice storm. At the St. Catharines rally, the crowd grew so large that the room dividers in the convention hall had to be taken down. The media took notice and the CTF had made its mark on Ontario's political map.

When the 1995 election was called, the CTF's proposed *Taxpayer Protection Act* became a campaign issue. Mike Harris made the proposed act part of his policy platform, and signed a Taxpayer Protection Pledge. Harris told every single one of his party's candidates to sign the pledge, and all but one of them did.

Once he was elected, Harris was hounded by the CTF until he final-

dum before any tax hike or new tax.

A small group of people had changed the entire political conversation and made balanced budgets a part of the province's political culture. By 2000, Ontario had a surplus.

In 2002, CTF opened a permanent office in Toronto and hired John Williamson as provincial director. John immediately launched a radio ad blitz against the costly and



**ABOVE:** In 1995, Ontario Premier Mike Harris signed the CTF's Taxpayer Protection Pledge promising he would not raise taxes without a referendum. **RIGHT:** When Premier Dalton McGuinty broke his pledge signed in 2003 not to raise taxes, the CTF introduced Fibber to drive the point home. **TOP RIGHT:** In 2004, Ontario Director Tasha Kheiridden delivers a 209,000 name petition demanding Premier McGuinty keep his word.

ly introduced the *Taxpayer Protection Act* in 1999 as Bill 7. This law would require Ontario to balance its budget, would impose stiff financial penalties on a premier and cabinet that ran a deficit, and required a referen-

unnecessary Kyoto Protocol and he organized a successful campaign that stopped provincial politicians from giving themselves a 25% raise.

During the 2003 provincial election and amid tremendous media

fanfare, John got the signatures of both premier Ernie Eves and Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty on the CTF's Taxpayer Protection Pledge. Both leaders committed to uphold the *Taxpayer Protection Act*.

Their signatures attracted attention across the province, but they attracted even more in 2004 when then-premier McGuinty broke his pledge by introduc-



ing a budget that gutted the *Taxpayer Protection Act*, raised taxes, increased spending and forecast deficits through to 2007.

Taxpayers were outraged and the CTF reacted immediately. Under director, and lawyer, Tasha Kheiriddin the CTF filed a civil lawsuit against the premier for breach of contract, and launched a petition that received over 200,000 signatures. We organized a rally and made submissions at Queen's Park. But in the face of a majority government and a court ruling against us, the *Taxpayer Protection Act* was gutted.

McGuinty was literally forced to look his own broken promise right in the face throughout the 2007 election thanks to the CTF's mascot "Fibber." Fibber and his 16-inch nose followed McGuinty across the province to every event on the campaign trail, reminding voters of the premier's broken word and that his promises and signatures were meaningless.

During the days of majority Liberal governments, many CTF Ontario victories have been at the municipal level. In 2006 the province



passed the *City of Toronto Act*, which gave the city the unique power to impose new taxes that were previously outside of its jurisdiction. In 2007, To-

ronto proposed 10 new taxes, and was faced with no resistance by politicians at City Hall or Queen's Park.

The CTF under Kevin Gaudet was the *de facto* opposition to these new taxes, which we proved

would cost an average homeowner \$1,162. The CTF presented at City Hall, Kevin organized a phone-in campaign against the taxes and launched a petition. In the end, Toronto only imposed two of the new taxes. But most significantly, as a result of the strong resistance, the new taxing powers of the *City of Toronto Act* did not spread to other municipalities.

Over the past decade debt has ballooned in Ontario. Twice in the past five years the CTF has organized Debt Clock campaigns, the first led by Gregory Thomas and the second by Candice Malcolm. These tours covered thousands of kilometres around Ontario, and led to front-page coverage in many community newspapers.

Ontario is approaching a fiscal cliff, as it did in 1993 when Rae was premier. And just as in 1993, the CTF will be there to face down reckless fiscal management and government waste. **t**

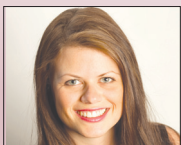
## Where are they now?



**Paul Pagnuelo** (Ontario; 1993-1997; CTF Board 1994-95, 2009-14): Paul was our first Ontario director as a volunteer, but he often worked as if he were a paid director. After leaving the CTF in 1997, Paul went back to his actual job as an executive with Bank of Montreal, retiring in 2007. He joined the CTF board shortly thereafter and served until fall 2014. Paul is active in his hometown of Cobourg, ON.



**Tasha Kheiriddin** (Ontario; 2004-2006): After leaving the CTF she moved to the Montreal Economic Institute where she was vice-president and then acting president and then moved to the Fraser Institute to open its Quebec office in Montreal. Tasha has been a sessional lecturer, a commentator on radio and television and a columnist in media from the *National Post* to CBC radio and television.



**Candice Malcolm** (Ontario; 2013-2015): Candice now splits her time between San Francisco and Canada as an international fellow at the Center for a Secure Free Society. Candice also continues to be a weekly columnist for the *Sun* newspaper chain.



## Five years in Atlantic Canada and still going **STRONG**



by Kevin  
Lacey  
Atlantic Director

**F**ive years ago the Canadian Taxpayers Federation decided to move east to Atlantic Canada, setting up a regional office in Halifax. Ever since the CTF launch, the organization has been challenging the traditional regional thinking about government dependence, taxes

and spending.

The CTF released two ground-breaking studies into the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick provincial politicians' gold plated pension programs.

The CTF's studies were released at the same time as the announcement that the CTF was moving east. Those two pension studies were the first to make public the amount that each individual provincial Member of the Legislative Assembly would earn in pension payouts when they retired.

The studies found some politicians would earn more in pension payouts than they would sitting

and working as an MLA.

The studies also found that for every \$1 contributed to their own pension by a Nova Scotia MLA, taxpayers put in \$22. In New Brunswick the ratio was \$16 to \$1.

Both reports garnered major media interest and it brought hundreds of new CTF supporters into the organization.

As a result of the CTF campaign, within just a few months both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had launched independent reviews of their MLA pension programs. We didn't get everything we wanted in those reviews but right out of the gate the CTF proved to have a real impact on the region.

### Battles

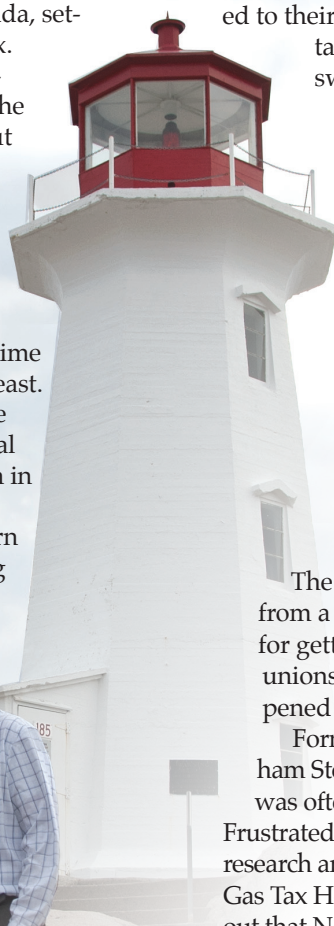
The CTF isn't normally one to shy away from a fight. And the CTF has been known for getting under the skin of politicians and unions leaders. That's exactly what happened in Atlantic Canada.

Former Nova Scotia Finance Minister Graham Steele now a *CBC* news commentator was often the target of campaigns by the CTF. Frustrated with being forced to respond to CTF research and advocacy he lashed out. After one Gas Tax Honesty Day, where the CTF pointed out that Nova Scotia drivers spent around \$2 a

fill up just paying the tax on taxes, finance minister Steele questioned why the CTF gets so much attention, he told *CTV Atlantic*, "It's a right wing advocacy organization that has no commitment to fairness or accuracy."

Steele complained again, after the CTF dug up and made public a study from the Department of Finance that found Nova Scotians pay the most federal provincial and municipal taxes relative to the province's economy than anywhere in Canada.

This time he tried to distance himself from his de-



L to R: Former Federal Director Kevin Gaudet, CTF CEO Troy Lanigan and Atlantic Director Kevin Lacey launching the Atlantic office

partment's own study, then attacked the CTF for being "right wing" and an "anti-tax organization."

Union leaders too did not like seeing their entitlements challenged by the CTF.

Nova Scotia Federation of Labour President Rick Clarke took issue with the CTF's comment that the Occupy Movement needed a "reality check." He went to meet with Occupy protesters and told them that his union now will challenge that "outfit" (referring to the CTF).

More recently, Nova Scotia Premier Stephen MacNeil complained about the CTF uncovering wasteful spending relating to the Bluenose II rebuild, and Nova Scotia Government Employees Unions President Joan Jessome accused the CTF of not being fair when they released information showing government workers top sick days included snow storms and Olympic hockey games.

Politicians and union leaders get mad at the CTF because the CTF gets results.

## Issues/campaigns

Just some of the many issues the CTF has taken on over the past five years include:

**"We welcome the decision of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation to make reform of MLA pensions the subject of a scathing report and petition as it launched a new regional office this week."**

Lead Editorial, Chronicle Herald  
September 16, 2010

## Employment Insurance

EI reform is needed in Atlantic Canada more than anywhere else in the country. The CTF has taken the message of reform directly to the Atlantic premier's calling on them to stop resisting reforms to this program.

## Sales tax increase in New Brunswick

CTF has been the leading organization challenging the provincial government to control their spending rather than resort to hiking the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). CTF has been fighting for a province-wide referendum on any major sales tax hike.

## Bluenose II rebuild

The CTF has released numerous access to information documents showing how millions were wasted trying to rebuild the iconic sailing vessel. The CTF called for the Auditor General to more closely examine the expenditures by the government. After initially refusing, the government relented and eventually called in the AG. His report recommended many changes that were adopted by the government.

## First nations transparency

The whole issue of over-the-top chief and band council salaries may have begun in western Canada, but it was Eastern Canada where some of the richest salaries existed. One Nova Scotia band paid its chief and three councillors about \$1.7 million for a band of just 304 people.

After the federal government released the salaries of the chief and coun-

cillors many were defeated in subsequent elections.

## Cracking down on the black market

The CTF recently calculated how much the underground economy was costing New Brunswick. After the CTF released this information, the finance minister announced that the government would introduce new legislation in the fall that would crack down on those who do business in the under ground economy.

Twenty-five years ago the Canadian Taxpayers Federation was launched in the west. Now with our Atlantic office, the Federation spans from one end of the country to the next.

Atlantic Canada is a changing place, there is a growing recognition the region can't keep spending money they don't have. Other provinces don't have enough money to keep bailing the region out.

The CTF has come a long way in Eastern Canada over a short period of time. By the time of our next anniversary, one can only imagine what more we will have accomplished. **t**

TELEGRAPHJOURNAL.COM

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2014/A3



Kevin Lacey, Canadian Taxpayers Federation Atlantic director, fills up his car with gas at Schoen's convenience store on Somerset Drive to promote the federation's 10th Annual Gas Tax Honey Day. PHOTO: STEPHEN MACGILLIVRAY/THE DAILY GLEANER

## Leaders of Canadian federation bring taxing gas prices to forefront

BRONTE JAMES  
THE DAILY GLEANER

FREDERICTON—It was a day to talk honestly about high taxes on gasoline. The Canadian Taxpayers Federation held a media briefing on Thursday at Schoen's convenience store and gas station in Fredericton to shine a light on federal and provincial gasoline tax hikes.

50-litre tank in your car, you're paying \$4 more in total tax (\$19.50 in total) than you did just five years ago. Lacey said there are two reasons for the increase, the first being the provincial gas tax increased by 20 cents per litre in 2011. The second, he said, is the 13 per cent HST is applied to a higher base price than five years ago. But it's not just New Brunswick that has high taxes on gas. Across Canada, the average is 26 cents.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is hoping to achieve two goals. The first, getting the government to eliminate the 15 cents per litre deficit elimination gas tax - which was put in place in 1995 by the federal Liberal government to try to balance the budget. "This year the federal government will balance the budget... and we've written the prime minister and his ministers

Brunswick taxpayers. The federation is asking Premier David Alward to support Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil's call to change the Atlantic HST agreement between the provinces to eliminate the tax on tax on gasoline. A change to the agreement would require the support of the federal government.

Taxpayer.com



# THEN & NOW

**T**wenty five years ago the world was a different place. The Berlin Wall had just come down, and the Soviet Union wasn't far behind. Bob Rae was on his way in and Margaret Thatcher was on her way out.

Facebook and Twitter had not yet been created (Mark Zuckerberg was only six years old). In fact, it wasn't until December of 1990 that Al Gore (or someone) invented the Internet. Computers were large, expensive and ran only basic programs. Telephones were hung on the wall of your home and people talked on them, unlike today where they fit in your pocket and they're largely used for texting and taking photos.

Letters were mailed and kids had pen pals, not snapchat friends. People bought cassettes to lis-

ten to their music and rented VHS tapes to watch their movies. (Add those two items to the list of "things we now do on our phone other than talking").

But while many things are different, other things are the same. Don Cherry is still on TV, and he's still right most of the time. People in Saskatchewan still love their Roughriders and Toronto is still not in danger of having to plan a Stanley Cup parade route anytime soon.

There's never enough rain, except for when there's too much rain.

Taxes are still too high, debt in most provinces is still going in the wrong direction and politicians still tell you what they think you want to hear.

There's no question we've made gains. We

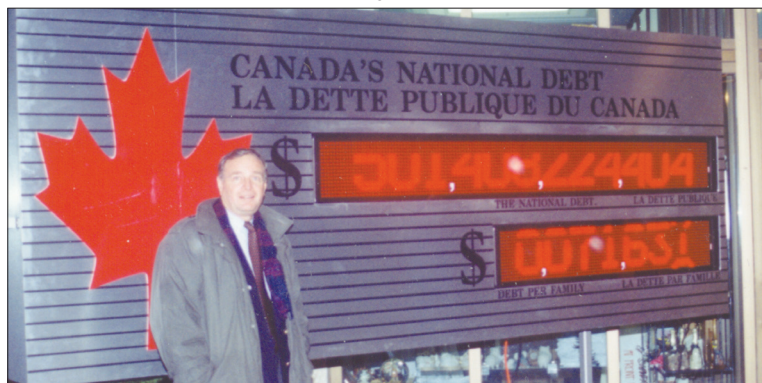
got to put the Debt Clock into storage for over a decade. Taxes as a percentage of your income is down. And a couple of crooked politicians actually did see the inside of a jail cell.

But our work is never done. The second a politician thinks they will get an easy ride for hiking taxes, wasting money or borrow-

ing from the next generation, they will.

Rest assured that the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, while constantly adapting to new times, new technology and new issues, is just as committed to fighting for taxpayers as we were in 1990. And with your continued support that's exactly what we will do. - Hennig

Then Finance Minister Paul Martin standing with the CTF Debt Clock circa 1995.



## Let's take a stroll down memory lane and

Year	1990	2015
Population of Canada	27,697,530	35,749,600
Unemployment rate	8.1%	6.8%
Inflation rate	4.8%	1.6%
GDP	\$0.98 trillion (in 2007 dollars)	\$1.76 trillion (in 2007 dollars)
Federal debt (April 23)	\$330.6 billion	\$616.2 billion
Canada-US \$ exchange rate	\$0.857	\$0.809
Average price of a house	\$160,881	\$450,886
Average university tuition	\$1,464	\$5,959
Price of a barrel of oil (April 23)	\$18.60 USD	\$56.59 USD
Largest company in the world (Fortune Global 500)	General Motors	Walmart
Price of a 6-pack of beer	\$5.95	\$11.50
Most popular vehicle (price)	Honda Accord (\$11,700)	Ford F150 (\$24,899)
Price of a loaf of bread	\$1.12	\$2.71
Price of a postage stamp	\$0.39	\$1.00
Cost of McDonalds' Big Mac	\$2.19	\$5.70

# By the Number



Number of CTF supporters (as of May 2015):

**88,467**

Number of CTF donors who have been donating annually for the past 25 years:

**2,600**

Number of donations received by the CTF in 2013-14:

**23,526**

Percentage of donations that were under \$1,000:

**98.3%**

Total revenues in 2013-14:

**\$4.2 million**

Total revenues collected in first year to run the Association of Saskatchewan Taxpayers:

**\$170,000**

Number of editions of *The Taxpayer* produced over past 25 years:

**141**

Number of interns that have worked for the CTF over the past 10 years:

**20**

Number of copies of *The Taxpayer* printed in 2014:

**102,500**

## compare what life was like in 1990 to 2015

Year	1990	2015
Cost of milk (1L)	\$1.20	\$2.06
Government spending as a % of GDP	22.6%	21.7% (2013)
Taxes as a % of household income	43.3%	41.8% (2013)
Highest federal income tax bracket rate	31.32%	29%
Top song	Wilson Phillips – Hold On	Mark Ronson & Bruno Mars – Uptown Funk
Highest grossing movie	Home Alone	American Sniper (2014)
Highest rated TV show	Cheers	The Walking Dead (2014)
Super Bowl winner	San Francisco 49ers	New England Patriots
Stanley Cup winner	Edmonton Oilers	Chicago Blackhawks
Grey Cup winner	Winnipeg Blue Bombers	Calgary Stampeders (2014)
Prime Minister	Brian Mulroney (Progressive Conservative)	Stephen Harper (Conservative)
US President	George HW Bush (Republican)	Barack Obama (Democrat)
Number of websites online	1 (info.cern.ch)	Over 1 billion



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# FIGHTING FOR TAXPAYERS

## Battles Fought & Battles Ahead

A new book authored by Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) President Troy Lanigan celebrates the CTF's 25th anniversary.

From Axe the Tax rallies opposing the GST in 1989 to the successful campaign to reform bloated MP pensions, *Fighting for Taxpayers* details the people, the campaigns, and the ups and downs of one of Canada's most successful citizen advocacy groups of the past quarter century.

The book also looks ahead at what still needs to be addressed: the aging population, the power of government employee unions, the missing priority of infrastructure and the ideological war against economic development.

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